MacFormat ISSUE 219 April 2010

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Printed in the UK

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Mac FORMAT

>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 219 April 2010

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Mac Format
40
iPad
Hands-on with the future

Subscribe to *MacFormat* to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get access to *Freeway Express* as well. **Turn to page 34 now!**

So, where were you when Steve Jobs announced the iPad? And will we really be asking ourselves that question in 20 years' time? For now I'm very excited about the possibilities that Apple's super-thin slab of tech throws up. The iPad may be lacking certain features that people expect, but so was the iPhone at launch, and look at it now! It seems pretty clear to me that iPad is going to follow the same sort of upgrade path that the iPhone has, with missing features being slowly added over time.

Given Apple's legendary skill at product placement, we'll also start to see iPads showing up in TV shows and movies pretty quickly, and expect to see celebrities snapped stepping onto planes or out of cars with their iPads. All of which is, frankly, going to be a bit bizarre. As *MacFormat* reader Angie Portmann noted in Feedback this month (page 20), the iPad bears a striking similarity to the PADD device used in virtually every episode of *Star Trek* since Sir Patrick Stewart took the helm of the Enterprise. So, it really is going to feel like we're living in the future! All we have to do now is wait for Steve Jobs to invent the teleporter, warp drive, clean renewable energy and we're done.

Read all about Apple's new iPad on page 24 and I'll see you next month for a closer look at *iWork*.

Graham Barlow, Editor
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twitter.com/MacFormat

YOUR DAY
VIDEO FILTER
AWARD CONTENDERS
SEARCH

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Christopher Phin

Deputy Editor

"Do I want an iPad as a replacement for my MacBook Pro? No. Do I want one as a replacement for my iPhone? No. Do I want one? Yes."

Chris on the iPad p32

Ian Osborne

Reviews Editor

"Consulting the 83-page manual, you get the hang of it in the end, but it's far from user friendly."

Ian identifies a fatal flaw in the new version of Tidy Up! p95

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OS X expert

"My mum has a copy of *MacFormat* with her at all times. She shows people my picture on this very page and tells family members that I'm in charge of Apple."

Chris'll fix your Mac p62

Luis Villazon

Technical wizard

"For an application that was the top word processor by a country mile back in 1991, this is an extraordinary fall from grace."

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Craig Grannell

Software guru

"There was a beautiful tactile quality to film-based photography, accompanied by a real sense of excitement."

Craig on turning your digital photos into old style snaps p52

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Discover the latest Apple kit

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iPad 9:41 AM

All your Apple needs

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>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 219 April 2010

40 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR MAC ...without breaking the bank

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Super snappers Six semi-pro cameras on test

Easy tutorials Create your WordPress site

GTA for iPhone iPod touch and iPad included!

TAP HERE FOR MORE!

Win! An iPod touch 8GB and 10 copies of Camtasia! **See p12**

>> IMPROVE YOUR MAC
IMPROVE Y
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Ways to improve your Mac
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Improve your Mac

We explore 40 ways to enhance your system **p36**

A QUICK BYTE
HALEY'S
John L

"Is there any way to shave a few quid off that exquisitely typeset Apple Store price tag? Wonder no more"

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Find missing iTunes artwork

> Captain FTP 6.2

Fast, safe, secure file transfer

> Fun Booth 1

Have more fun with your photos

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Fun Booth 1
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Hands-on with the future

(iPad shown actual size)

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO USING YOUR MAC!
The Essential Snow Leopard Handbook

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Peoples of the Serengeti
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Wildcats Soccer Team
Statistics 2010

iPad has landed!

iPad takes its first steps into the world to greet fans and critics alike

>> READ MORE!

Turn to page 24 to find out everything you need to know about the iPad, from a tour around the software and device itself, to all the opinions that really matter.

Apple has claimed that with its latest creation, the iPad, it has created the ultimate netbook challenger, with the web and multimedia at its heart.

The iPad is a device powered by the iPhone OS and boosted with inclusion of the new eBook-selling iBookstore within iTunes (although this is only currently available in the US for now).

eBooks were very much in focus prior to the launch event, and the new iBooks app for iPad, includes Apple's new iBookstore, where you can browse, buy and read books from major and independent publishers.

"iPad is our most advanced technology in a revolutionary device at an unbelievable price," said Apple boss Steve Jobs. "It creates and defines a new category of devices that will connect users with their apps and content in a far more intuitive way than before."

iPad lets you browse the web, read and send email, explore your images, videos and music collections, play games and more.

Weighing 1.5 pounds and just 0.5-inches thick, Apple's tablet offers a high-res 9.7-inch Multi-Touch LED display and is powered by Apple's first PA Semi processor, the A4. Designed by Apple, the chip provides exceptional processor and graphics performance with a battery life of up to 10 hours.

The device offers WiFi support, with 3G and WiFi models also available. Capacities include 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. The display features IPS technology for clear images and a 178-degree viewing angle.

APPLE IN PICTURES / iPhone hits the high note

© The Royal Opera / Richard Hubert Smith - January 2010

iPHONES AT THE OPERA

Fiordiligi (Sally Matthews) and Dorabella (Nino Surguladze) bring Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* up to date at the Royal Opera House. Thanks to reader Claire Russell for spotting it.

There's an almost full-size virtual keyboard, the capacity to import images from a camera or sync content with a computer; and YouTube support. Apple also introduced a new version of *iWork* for iPad, making *Pages*, *Keynote* and *Numbers* available individually for $9.99 each.

The iPad syncs with *iTunes* and supports almost all apps at the App Store, upscaling them for use in full-screen mode. A new SDK that lets developers build apps in full-screen has been released.

The price? From $499 in the US, though UK pricing hasn't been announced as we go to press. WiFi models ship in late March, with 3G versions scheduled for late April in the UK.

Analysts seem keen: Van Baker of Gartner Research told BBC News, "It's hard to argue against. I can use it in the living room, the classroom, for light work and at the coffee shop."

"Everything they have done until now is in this device – the iPod, iTunes, Multi-Touch, the apps. And they've added new features like the iBookstore," said Interpret analyst, Mike Gartenberg. "I think this is going to be a very successful product for them and will exceed expectations."

Apple-watchers observed the lack of a camera means the system will be of little use for video conferencing. Lack of *Flash* support also attracted criticism, but this seems unlikely to change. Apple CEO Steve Jobs condemned *Flash* developer Adobe as lazy, blaming the non-Apple multimedia standard for most Mac browser crashes.

Recent moves by Apple, Google and online video site, Vimeo to adopt the multimedia-friendly HTML5 standard could reflect a shrinking Flash market.

Celebrity Apple fan Stephen Fry notes such criticisms, "There are many issues you could have with the iPad," he writes. "No multitasking, no *Flash*. No camera, no GPS. Too big for my pocket, not big enough for serious use."

He continues: "Like the first iPhone, iPad 1.0 is preparing the way for what is to come, but also like iPhone 1.0, iPad 1.0 is still fantastic enough in its own right to be classed as a stunning object, one that you will want now and one that will not be matched this year by any company." ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

250 million

The number of iPods sold since launch October 2001.

"A wonderful quality the Kindle has is the inertness of a printed page..."

Christopher Phin on why he likes his technology to be traditional.

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs
www.apple.com
"iPods are mobile devices, iPhones are mobile devices, most of the Macs we sell are mobile devices... Apple is a mobile devices company, that's what we do. It turns out that, by revenue, Apple is the largest mobile devices company in the world now... We're even bigger than Nokia."
Apple's boss calls out Nokia in iPad keynote.

Eric Schmidt
www.google.com
"I've a special spot for Apple in my heart. Apple is a very well-run company and they have a lot of very good stuff coming."
Google boss and former Apple board member.

Mike Gartenberg
www.interpretllc.com
"I think this is going to be a very successful product for them and exceed expectations."
Many analysts are excited for the iPad.

Adrian Ludwig
www.adobe.com
"Without Flash, iPad users will not be able to access the full range of web content."
Adobe points out the no-Flash limits of the 'magical' iPad.

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bibliophile knows best

Christopher Phin

Delete your browser bookmarks, close this magazine, and stop buying broadsheets; if you want to know what Apple's going to do next, none of these sources are as reliable as the simple expedient of listening to what Steve Jobs says and then working out how he's going to make the opposite true.

Jobs' assertion that "people don't read anymore" was seen by many as evidence that Apple would never release an ebook reader. And while I'll allow them the wiggle room of "ah, but, what we meant was that Apple would never release a dedicated E Ink reader", the iPad – and, more importantly, the fact that you can not only read but buy books directly from Apple – is proof of my rumour-filtering thesis.

Yet I can't imagine myself snuggling down with an iPad to lose myself in a book for an hour. I spend my working life glaring at backlit TFTs; I know – as does my optometrist – that it's unpleasant. I have a little theory, and it's slightly distasteful. The iPad will actually cause a net increase in the number of books read because, hey, people like to do stuff with the expensive hardware they've just bought, and for many, 'reading books' has a nicely aspirational feel to it; I suspect that for people who will dip into a novel for a few minutes between watching YouTube and checking Twitter, the iPad will be fine.

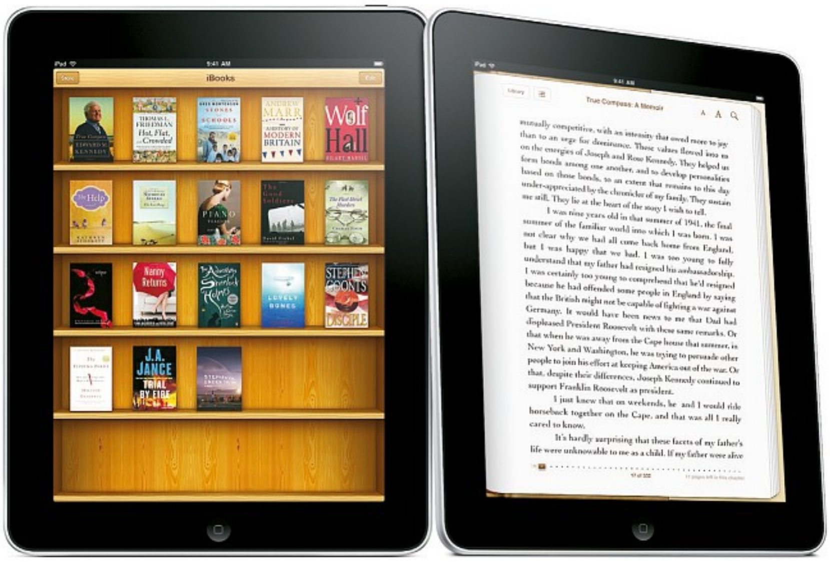
> *"The fact that [the Kindle] is focused on the task of reading books, will not tempt you over to Facebook"*

I love books – the narrative as well as the objects themselves. One wonderful quality the Kindle has is the inertness of a printed page; not only is the screen quite unlike anything you have ever seen in your life* but the fact that it's focused on the task of reading books, will not tempt you over to Facebook.

The Kindle is a device for those who luxuriate in the written word. The iPad is made for a world in which the moving image is a more ubiquitous cultural phenomenon…

(* Um, since you're reading this on a printed page, I have somewhat driven myself down a hyperbolic cul de sac.)

***Christopher Phin: My Life, My Love, My iPhone* will be available from all good bookshops… as soon as it's written.**



mutually competitive, with an intensity that owed more to joy than to an urge for dominance. These values flowed into us on the energies of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. They helped us form bonds among one another, and to develop personalities based on those bonds, to an extent that remains to this day under-appreciated by the chroniclers of my family. They sustain me still. They lie at the heart of the story I wish to tell.

I was nine years old in that summer of 1941, the final summer of the familiar world into which I was born. I was not clear why we had all come back home from England, but I was happy that we had. I was too young to fully understand that my father had resigned his ambassadorship. I was certainly too young to comprehend that he'd resigned because he had offended some people in England by saying that the British might not be capable of fighting a war against Germany. It would have been news to me that Dad had displeased President Roosevelt with these same remarks. Or that when he was away from the Cape house that summer, in New York and Washington, he was trying to persuade other people to join his effort at keeping America out of the war. Or that, despite their differences, Joseph Kennedy continued to support Franklin Roosevelt as president.

I just knew that on weekends, he and I would ride horseback together on the Cape, and that was all I really cared to know.

It's hardly surprising that these facets of my father's life were unknowable to me as a child. If my father were alive

>> RETAILER NEWS

Apple's move to eBook raises Amazon's temperature.

Amazon fights back for Kindle

The iBookstore puts Apple against Amazon

Launch of the iPad-ready iBookstore, which already offers titles from most major US book publishers, has opened a new battle with Amazon.

Unwilling to relinquish its hold on the eBook market and to protect Kindle, Amazon made several moves to shore up its eBook empire.

Amazon opened up Kindle to developers, promising launch of an App Store. It introduced a set of programming guidelines that other companies – including publishers of books and periodicals – can use to create and sell apps for the Kindle, using its 3G connection and a high-resolution screen.

Amazon changed its Kindle book distribution deal to offer better royalties on sales, increasing these from 35 to 70%. However, it also demanded rights to set a $9.99 price, which publishers then rejected.

Following Apple's event, publishers, including Macmillan and Harper Collins asked Amazon to raise the price of electronic books from $9.99 to around $15. Partially that's because Apple is offering them similar prices and deals through the iBookstore. In response, Amazon temporarily removed Macmillan books from sale, only to change its mind two days later, saying, "Ultimately we will have to capitulate and accept Macmillan's terms because Macmillan has a monopoly over their own titles, and we will want to offer them to you even at prices we believe are needlessly high for e-books."

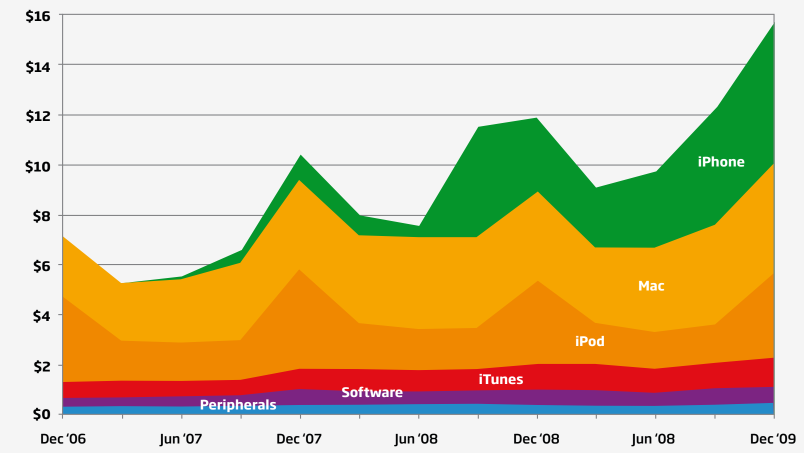
>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

2 million

Number of iPhones sold by O2 in the UK so far.

Hot on the heels of Macmillan's victory, News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch also plumped for the Apple deal. "Apple in its agreement with us, which has not been disclosed in detail, does allow for a variety of slightly higher prices," he said, adding, "There will be prices very much less than the printed copies of books but they still will not be fixed in a way that Amazon has been doing it. It appears that Amazon is now ready to sit down with us again and renegotiate pricing."

» APPLE IN NUMBERS / iPhone all the way



As this graph clearly shows, by revenue at least, Apple has become the iPhone company. Thanks to Silicon Alley Insider (www.businesinsider.com/alleyinsider).

» FINANCIAL NEWS

Apple sets new financial records

Apple is now a multi-billion company

As Apple announced yet another record-setting quarter, the company's Chief Financial Officer, Peter Oppenheimer stated: "We posted Apple's highest quarterly revenues and earnings, and set new records in sales of Macs and iPhones."

Apple sold 3.36 million Macs – 33% up on last year. They also sold 8.7 million iPhones in the quarter, representing 100% unit growth over the year-ago quarter, contributing $5.4 billion to Apple's results. iPod sales fell 8% year-on-year – Apple sold 21 million.

"If you annualise our quarterly revenue, it's surprising that Apple is now a $50+ billion company," said Apple CEO, Steve Jobs. "The new products we are planning to release this year are very strong."

Response to the new iMac, which was introduced in October was very strong too, contributing to 70% year-over-year growth in desktop sales, Apple revealed. Mac sales growth across the board exceeded industry trends.

Macs accounted for nine out of 10 US sales of computers that cost more than $1,000, an NPD report separately revealed.

Apple saw $15.68 billion revenue for $3.38 billion profit during its fiscal 2010 first quarter, which ended December 26, 2009. That compares to revenue of $11.88 billion in the same quarter last year. International sales delivered 58 % of revenue.

"Looking ahead to the second fiscal quarter of 2010, we expect revenue in the range of about $11.0 billion to $11.4 billion," Oppenheimer explained.

» APPLE IN NUMBERS

140,000

Number of applications on sale at the App Store.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Mac Pro upgrades loom

There is speculation about a new high-end Mac Pro boasting a new Intel Xeon chip. We note these Macs last got beefed-up in March 2009, so the gossip seems on schedule.

HOT: 4G iPhone set for May

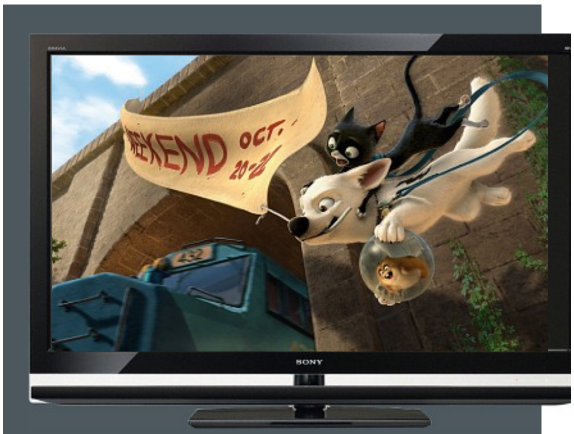
French mobile carriers are whispering that the next model iPhone's set to show its face in May as Apple speeds up development to combat Google's Android phones.

NOT: Mac OS X iPad set for 2010

Could there be a Mac OS X version of the iPad later this year – we're ignoring the rumour for now, in favour of previous speculation that Apple may introduce a MultiTouch iMac first.

NOT: Camera for future iPad

A Mac repair shop claims to have spare parts for the iPad, which include an aperture for a camera. We ask why Apple would send out spares before the product ships? File in ignore.



© Disney Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

"If you've watched Disney's animated movie, *Bolt*, you surely saw the Apple logo on the iPhone in the hand of Penny's PR and the Apple laptop in the first 20 minutes," says reader, David Hersey.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Not meeting Steve Jobs

Susie Ochs

The day we call 'iPad day' was exhausting from beginning to end. It started with standing in the fog for two hours waiting to get in. Negotiating the highly undignified stampede into the auditorium. Frantically typing everything that happened in the 90-minute presentation in 140-character bursts and cross-posting them to Twitter and our live blog.

But then came the fun part: I got to spend another 90 minutes with my grubby mitts all over the iPad, testing it every which way I could before finally shuffling, glassy-eyed and shell-shocked, back to the office, where I wouldn't stop writing about it for days.

"What was it like?" my friends and colleagues keep asking me. Engrossing. So much so that I completely missed Steve Jobs walking, oh, a foot or so behind me, so complete was my new-gadget-induced tunnel vision. I'd caught glimpses of him before, but had never seen him deign to rub elbows with a packed room of journalists all hopped up on hype. To me, this was unheard of. I just wish I had noticed. Here's what happened.

"I got to spend another 90 minutes with my grubby mitts all over the iPad, testing it every which way I could…"

My colleague and I were testing two iPads by that point while I simultaneously shot video and we both peppered Apple's patient gadget wranglers with questions galore. I managed to ignore the increasing nudges until they'd evolved into full-fledged jostles and light shoves. I finally looked up to see a ring of journalists and TV cameras encircling someone. Standing on tiptoes, I craned my neck around. Who is everyone following? I saw Apple PR people, and some short gray hair, and a pair of glasses, and a black hooded sweatshirt – oh. Oh. That's Steve Jobs, making a Pope-like pass through the space to survey his creation and see that it was good. But by then, he was past me, the surrounding throng moved out of nudging range, and I shrugged and turned back to the iPad. That iPad sure does have a way of keeping your head down.

Anyway, Steve, if you're reading, nice to see you. And thanks for inviting me over.

Susie Ochs is Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*. She is also San Francisco's premier tequila slammer and burrito enthusiast.

>> INDUSTRY NEWS

Jobs slams 'lazy' Adobe and Google

Apple boss slates two big companies

An exact quote may not have emerged but Apple insiders who attended a company-wide "Town Hall" meeting with Steve Jobs, told Wired the Apple co-founder's fairly fed-up with Google and Adobe.

Jobs was speaking to Apple staff to explain the importance of the company's newly launched iPad, with one staff member asking about the company's relationship with the two other firms. Wired tells us Jobs expressed his dismay with both companies.

Jobs is reported to have said that Apple 'did not enter the search business. They entered the phone business. Make no mistake there are teams at Google who want to kill the iPhone. We won't let them'. He also slammed Google's well-known 'Don't be evil' mission statement, calling it "bullshit".

Jobs reportedly also criticised Adobe for being "lazy", explaining the graphics and web design software company seems to be resistant to embracing Apple technologies such as Carbon.

He also characterised Apple's refusal to support Flash on the iPhone or the iPad because it is too "buggy". He told the audience that Flash is responsible for the majority of Mac crashes, and he went on to predict that in the future multimedia content will be transmitted using the non-proprietary web standard (which runs within the browser) HTML5.

During the talk, Jobs also promised aggressive iPhone updates that Google will be unable to match with Android, and that new Macs scheduled for release this year will take Apple "to the next level".

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

100,000

Number of iPhones Vodafone UK sold in first eight days.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

The reaction to the iPad is part excitement, part disappointment. This is usual. Hyped devices always "disappoint" on launch and often go on to sell in huge numbers. iPad could be no different to iPod, iPhone, PS2 in initially disappointing the pundits.

The cynics see the iPad as a big iTouch and not pocket compatible. The market sees things like this in terms of its mantra of: "buy on rumour, sell on fact," so investors don't like what they see but are probably selling out on the iPad's proto-launch. However, if Apple's price continues to slide then the market will be telling everyone iPad is a dud.

Apple's hardware and software distribution platform of *iTunes* make the iPad a potential revolutionary product, cannibalising books, magazines and papers in the same way as iPod killed the popstar. Whether it's iPad or another e-reader that wipes out old media is open to speculation.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

Execs focus on iTunes

A strategic gem for Apple

Apple execs continue to nurture *iTunes* as the media ecosystem becomes more important to the company following the iPad launch. Cheaper TV shows, improved web integration and streaming music services and expansion into newer European states seem set to make the comapany's media-centric devices an everyday essential.

In Europe, Apple is in a position to extend *iTunes* across borders following an agreement of a key trans-European distro deal with PRS Music. This deal should let Apple offer music from all PRS members – almost every label – across all European states. European regulators have been pushing music licensing bodies to enable deals like this, arguing that the inability to sell music at the same price across all European nations is bad for music consumers, with consumer rights a fundamental tenet of the union itself. TV could get much cheaper, too. *The Financial Times* claims Apple's pushing TV networks to lower TV show prices, asking US networks to offer shows at $1, half the current cost. The networks are resisting the effort, despite DVD prices being considerably lower, most of the time.

December's acquisition of streaming music service, LaLa.com, has already seen *iTunes* previews being made available to access through a browser – before now it has been necessary to launch *iTunes*. A recent Cnet report claims Apple is attempting to secure permission for *iTunes* users to enjoy an online "musical locker" – upload your collection to the music servers and access all of it from wherever you are on any licensed device.

Apple's move to music streaming is forced by competitive pressure. Streaming music service, Spotify, will launch in the US by spring. With iPhones and iPads to sell, Apple must match competitors to maintain future relevance for music sales through iTunes.

>> APPLE EVENTS

31
MARCH

CEBIT
Hannover, 2-6 March
Europe's largest technology showcase runs a hotbed of technology innovation across all of its halls.

FOCUS ON IMAGING,
Birmingham, NEC,
7-10 March
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MUSIKMESSE,
FRANKFURT
24-27 March
Musikmesse is a leading international event for music creation, recording, producing or and more.

MACFORMAT
Issue 220, 31 March
We'll be watching as Apple's plans for the next-gen iPhone hit the rumour mill – plus all the latest product news.

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Create exciting screencasts with Camtasia for Mac. Photography by Joe Branston

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TechSmith Corp's *Camtasia for Mac* lets you record all activity on your computer screen, including interaction with any website or Mac-based application. You can also capture audio from your in-built or external mic and video from your *iSight* webcam. It's the ideal screencasting tool.

Camtasia simplifies screen recording and editing, so you can build professional presentations and software demonstrations with ease. It's great for training and marketing screencasts. Recorded video can be output to Apple portable media devices, such as your iPhone or iPod. Once you have created a project on your Mac, just transfer it over.

The app costs £80, but thanks to TechSmith Corp, we've got ten copies to give away. One very lucky winner will also gets an 8GB iPod touch for viewing his or her screencasts. It's a great prize bundle.

The question

To stand a chance of winning this amazing prize, just answer this simple question:

Which of the following can you use to view a Camtasia screencast?

A) iPod touch
B) iPod shuffle
C) Time Capsule

For more information on Camtasia, go to www.techsmith.com/camtasiamac

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text CAMTASIA, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

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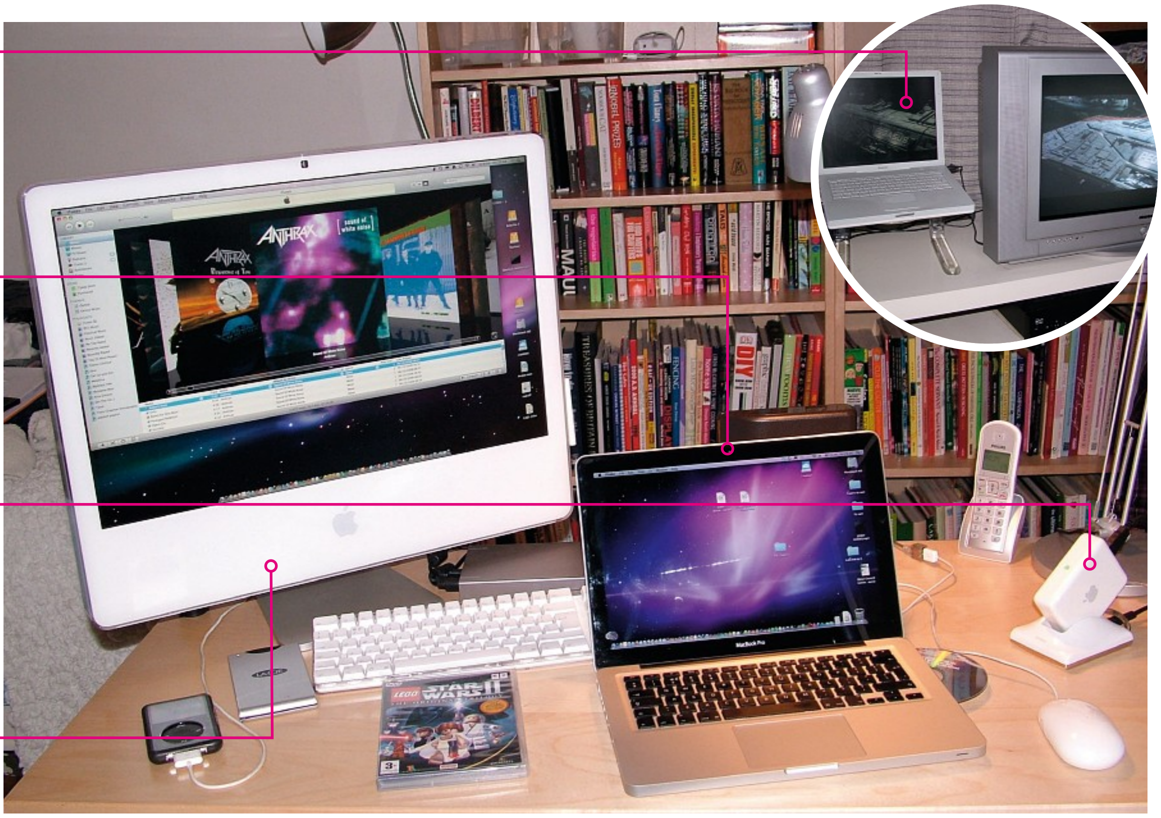
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**



iBook G4
Now streaming media from his other Macs, this iBook is hooked up to Richard's TV for movies and more.

MacBook Pro 13-inch 2.53GHz Core 2 Duo
Richard uses his MacBook for scientific modelling.

Apple AirPort Express
The Belkin's WiFi AirBase stand is good enough for a home network.

iMac 24-inch 2.13GHz Core 2 Duo
This machine is the heart of Richard's home setup.

>> PROFILE

Name: Dr Richard Holmes
Occupation: Research Fellow
Been using a Mac for: 16 years
Favourite hardware: Mighty Mouse or Lego Mindstorms
Favourite software: iMovie, iWork

Dr Richard Holmes is a Research Fellow in the Nanotechnology and Integrated Bioengineering Centre at the University of Ulster. He tells us: "My work involves developing laboratory-on-a-chip technology and chemical-sensor systems, and I teach graphical programming, measurement systems, instrumentation, and computer-aided design at undergraduate level.

"I currently use a 13-inch MacBook Pro – named the 'EAS Agamemnon' – in both my teaching and research, which is light enough to carry on my bicycle and powerful enough to be my main working computer. I use *iWork* and *Office 2008* extensively, but always use *Keynote* to facilitate the presentation of my lecture material, and *GetTube* to download YouTube videos for incorporation in lectures; it's better than relying on web access in the middle of a class!

> *"My MacBook Pro is light enough to carry on my bicycle and powerful enough to be my main computer"*

"Working in a predominantly Windows environment, *Parallels* is a godsend where PC-only applications are required. In general, it is possible to find a Mac alternative, but the ability to run both OSs makes life very easy.

"My work requires that I use graphical programming languages (LabVIEW for both platforms), CAD (TurboCAD on OS X and Solid Edge on Windows), and software for drawing chemical structures (*ChemDraw*, which is a Mac app).

"*iPhoto* and *iMovie* are excellent tools to maintain my extensive collection of work-related multimedia files and photographs, and *ImageJ* and *miXscope* work wonders with video microscopy. I also use *Endnote X1* to manage my reference database.

At home, Richard has a great setup too. "An iMac ('Babylon 5') forms the centre of our hub, with two external hard drives (one named 'Starfury' and a two-partition 750GB monster called 'Babylon 4' and 'Epsilon 3').

"My home network is formed by two AirPort Express boxes creating an internal network and printer share system. My old G4 iBook ('White Star') has been re-tasked to work as a multimedia player – using the video-out to S-video connector to link to the TV, streaming music and video files – and the iMac DV SE will be used as a file server once I have time." ●

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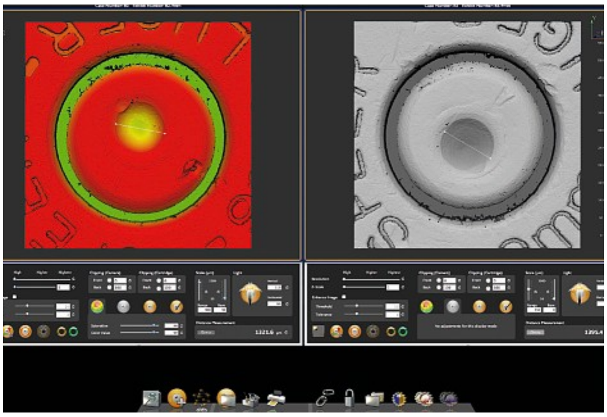
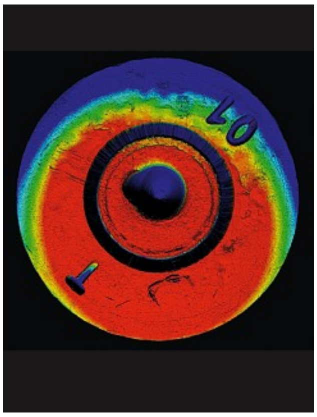
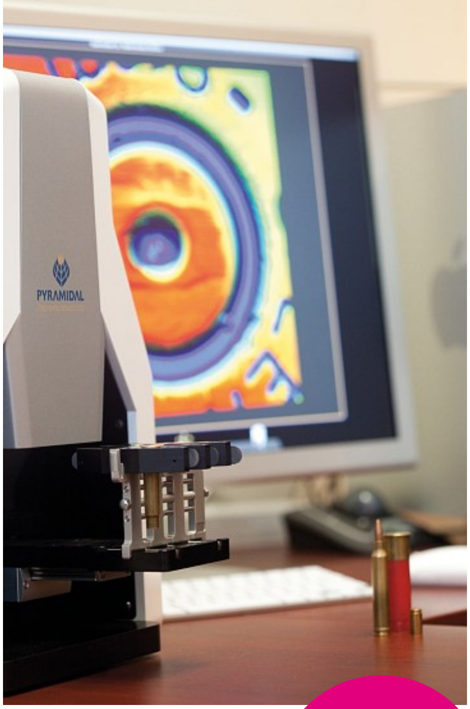






ABOVE: Using the ALIAS system to analyse different bullet cartridges.
RIGHT: The characteristics are enhanced using the ALIAS Z scale feature.
FAR RIGHT: The ALIAS interferometer with cartridges loaded.

Alias
ADVANCED BALLISTICS ANALYSIS SYSTEM

I use my Mac for solving gun crimes

Christopher Phin takes cover with gun expert Mike Barrett of Pyramidal Technologies

FIND OUT MORE! Read an extended version of this interview at http://bit.ly/IUMMFalias

»PROFILE

Name: Mike Barrett
Location: Barbados
Occupation: President/CEO of Pyramidal Technologies and ex-Mountie
System: Mac Pro, Apple Cinema HD Display, ALIAS interferometer
Web: www.pyramidaltechnologies.com

MacFormat: What does ALIAS do?

Mike Barrett: ALIAS (Advanced Ballistics Analysis System) lets firearms examiners analyse cartridge data faster, with greater accuracy so that law enforcement agencies can apprehend criminals more often than with existing systems.

The ALIAS interferometer scans the surface of expended cartridge cases at the incredibly high resolution of 2 microns and stores these 'images', along with associated demographic data, in a database.

MF: What process would a forensic examiner go through?

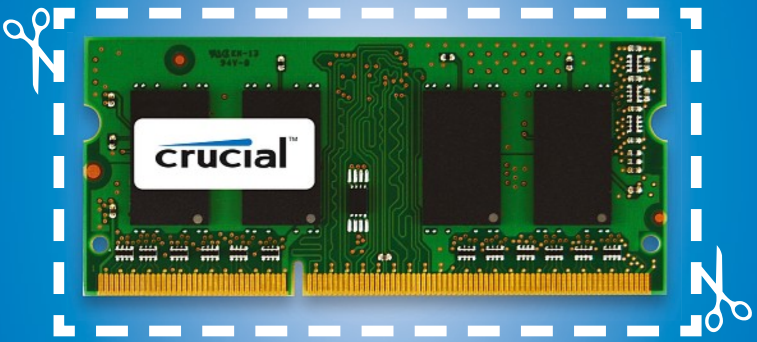
MB: Complying with evidence-handling requirements, the examiner inputs data of the exhibit into the ALIAS system, and places the case into a slot in the cartridge case holder, then loads it into the interferometer. Next, the examiner initiates a scan. The interferometer scans the surface of the case-head and stores the scan along with its demographic data in a database.The examiner can compare the cartridge to similar examples.

MF: Why build this system to run on the Mac?

MB: Through the experience of bringing ALIAS to market, I've learned that Unix is a capable operating system, and Apple Unix doesn't require familiarity with Unix arcana.

Before the Pyramidal Technologies team even wrote the first line of code, the plan was to ensure that the heavy computation of ALIAS would run on GPUs using OpenCL and Apple's high performance multi-core CPUs. Early in ALIAS' conception, Ardavan had the opportunity to liaise with researchers at WWDC who were working on animation, genetics and high-energy particle physics. These researchers had all selected the Mac Pro.

Finally, in addition to the Mac Pro's superior ability to handle the technicalities detailed above, the Pyramidal team also wanted a computing platform that is beautiful in both visual and internal design. Up until the creation of ALIAS, forensics firearms examiners and technicians envied the equipment used in other forensics disciplines. Every detail in this system was executed to provide forensics ballistics personnel with the best and most accessible analysis system out there and to enable law enforcement agencies worldwide to achieve more convictions, faster, and to save more lives. ●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Gadgets

The hottest kit, coming soon.
Here's what Apple is up against

▲ The Space Bar

$42 (Around £26) www.tinyurl.com/y98jvj7

What is it? A display raiser that's wide enough to house a full-size Apple keyboard when not in use. It's built from brushed aluminium with durable hard plastic accents, and has six front-facing USB ports.

When's it due? Should be out now.

Why are we excited? Stylish and durable, The Space Bar is great for liberating desk space when not using your computer. The USB ports are ideal for slotting in flash drives, iPod cables and other such devices you don't keep permanently connected, and at $42 it's amazing value for money, even after adding $12.50 shipping.

▼ Casio Exilim EX-FH100

£279 www.casioonline.co.uk

What is it? A compact camera that does a little bit more. You can take stills at 10 megapixels, but in movie mode it can capture up to 1,000 frames per second for some great slow-motion action. This is only possible at low resolution, but it can give you a full VGA image at 120FPS, and 720-pixel HD standard-speed movies.

When's it due? Get it now, at all good camera stores or online.

Why are we excited? Slow-motion video is great fun, and the Exilim EX-FH100's HD capabilities and qualities as a stills camera mean it's more than just a one-trick pony.

CASIO
EXILIM
HS

▶ BookBook

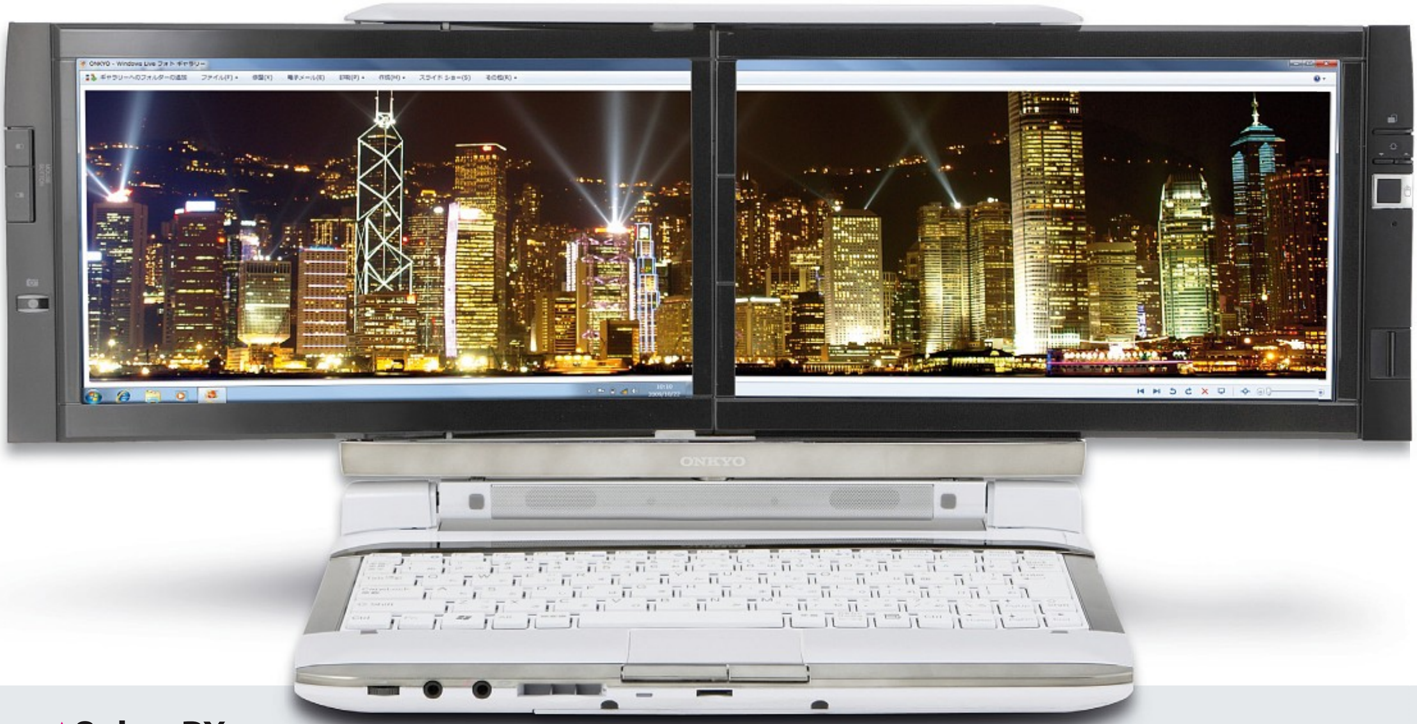
$80 (about £50)

www.twelvesouth.com/products/bookbook

What is it? Now this is luxury. Store your 13- or 15-inch MacBook in a hard-backed padded case, styled to look like a well-used leather-bound book. It's available in red or black, and protects your notebook on the road as well as hiding it from thieves if you're unlucky enough to be burgled at home.

When's it due? Out now in the States, it shouldn't take long to arrive over here.

Why are we excited? It's a delicious fusion of old-world elegance and cutting-edge technology, though it might look out of place on your bookshelves if all you read is paperbacks.



▲Onkyo DX

¥84,800 (about £580)
www.onkyo.com

What is it? It's a laptop with twin 10.1-inch, 1,366x768-pixel LCD displays. Its 1.6GHz Athlon Neo MV-40 CPU and ATI Radeon HD 3200 graphics chip mean it isn't the most powerful notebook, but it's an interesting setup. The Onkyo DX offers wireless 'n' connectivity, Bluetooth 2.1, 2GB of RAM (expandable to 4GB) and a 320GB HDD.
When's it due? It's out now in the Far East, but yet to hit our shores.
Why are we excited? We reckon the Onkyo DX is underpowered considering the jobs that would benefit from a dual-screen notebook setup, but wouldn't you just love to see a special edition, two-screen MacBook Pro? We would!

▶Powerstrap

£40 www.powerstrap.co.uk

What is it? Six rechargeable cells housed in a waterproof wrist strap. Use it to power your mobile phone, iPhone/iPod, Sony PSP, Nintendo DS, digital camera and more. It's available in a range of colours.
When's it due? The Powerstrap arrived at the start of 2010.
Why are we excited? Unless we suddenly get the urge to go Gothic and invest in a long black coat and clumpy boots, we doubt we'd wear it in public. It's an interesting concept, though, and a neat way of carrying your supplementary battery power.

▲Wacom PL-2200

£1,600 www.wacom.eu

What is it? A really neat interactive pen display from the kings of the graphics tablet. A lecturer or presenter can make notes, sketches and annotations on its widescreen HD display. It can be linked to a projector too, so you can illustrate your talk on a big screen without turning your back on your audience.
When's it due? March 2010.
Why are we excited? It's not cheap, but Wacom tablets are always great quality. It could prove a really useful tool for educators and marketers.

Feedback

>>CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

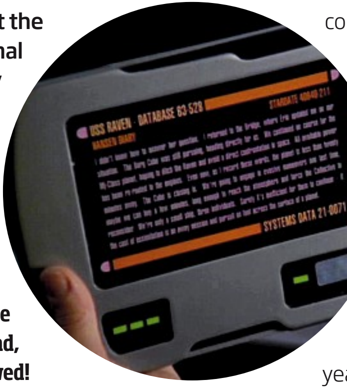
Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

To boldly go

Personally I'd love to get an iPad, as I quite often find myself doing things on my iPod touch and thinking, "I just wish the screen was bigger". This is that bigger screen.

I can see the iPad becoming much more than it seems at the moment, with people currently dismissing it as a bigger iPod. I know this will sound hackneyed but the PADDs (Personal Access Display Device) that are used in the *Star Trek* Universe are the iPad in one possible future, and they are used for virtually everything that requires reading or data entry. Why can't most people see that this could be the start of a whole new information usage revolution – in its own way as important as the development of the printed book!

Angie Portmann



Star Trek lead the way with the iPad, Apple just followed!

MacFormat replies: Nice connecting of the dots between the iPad and *Star Trek*, Angie! We hadn't thought about that before, but Sir Patrick Stewart and crew have been flashing iPads before our eyes for years now.

iMovie grumbles

I have recently succumbed to a new MacBook Pro and was looking forward to using the *iMovie '09* programme. I had used the previous editing suites (*iMovie HD*) with great success and have been more than delighted with the results. I was used to downloading from my Sony camera, editing and then returning it to my camera prior to using my Sony DVD recorder to come up with the finished DVD. But when I wanted to put it back onto tape using the Share menu I found I couldn't. I know that at the age of 75, perhaps my brain isn't as quick as it used to be, but the previous *iMovie* editing suite was so straightforward and easy to use. I felt I was in control back then!

D G Talbot

MF replies: The ability to export your movie back to tape was removed from *iMovie '08* onwards. Nobody really knows the reason why – we expect it might have something to do with support for a broader range of cameras.

At the moment you'll have to stick with *iMovie HD* until Apple reinstates this feature into *iMovie*, or burn the DVD using *iDVD* on your Mac. This is actually pretty easy: select your project, then from the Share menu in *iMovie* choose *iDVD*. Then, after a bit of thinking about it, *iDVD* will open with your movie ready to go. Pop a blank DVD into your drive and hit the Burn icon (it's next to the Play button).

Not the business

Well for me, the iPad is a slight let-down. I was hoping for something I could take away on

>>STAR LETTER / Time Machine, the life saver

Well, it happened! I put my trusty second edition Macbook Pro laptop to bed for the night, and the next morning it would not start up. All was not well.

I suspected it might be a major problem and a visit to the Apple Store confirmed that the hard drive had finally given up the ghost. Oh no! my files, my music, my emails, my contacts, my life!

With the hard drive replaced with a much bigger one and Snow Leopard reloaded, I looked longingly at my 2TB Time Capsule and hoped for the best! We have four machines at home all backing up to it, and I was not confident that all would be well.

I was wrong. Five hours after asking it to fully restore my system and a final restart, everything was as it was before! I was truly amazed. My MobileMe account was also brilliant as everything continued to sync in the background and it still gave me access to everything through my iPhone.

To anyone wavering on the edge of a Mac conversion, or wondering if a backup is really necessary, then have no fear that *Time Machine* really works.

John Blanchfield

MF replies: Thanks John. It's great to hear that *Time Machine* worked in your hour of need. It's impossible to over emphasise the importance of backing up your Mac, and if there's anybody out there who doesn't do it, we hope they read your letter and mend their ways!

>>STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

business to save carting my MacBook Pro around. However, the iPad does not give me the option to (from what I have seen) move my docs from the laptop to the iPad.

My iPhone is ideal to read on, as it's just the right size and not too heavy. I don't want to look like too much of an idiot sitting at a bar using it, but I can imagine I couldn't get away with it if I had an iPad.

All I'd use the iPad for would be when I was sitting on a train/in the airport lounge – and in both cases the laptop would be in the same case!

So as much as I love all things Apple, I cannot see my cash going to Steve any time soon.

Jon Smile

MF replies: Good points you've made there, Jon, although we'd assume you should be able to sync *Pages, Numbers* and *Keynote* documents to and from the iPad via *iTunes.* And while there isn't a version of *Word* or *Excel* for the iPad (yet), both *Pages* and *Numbers* can open *Word* and *Excel* documents with ease.

Luxury item

At the moment I think the iPad would be a rather expensive luxury item: I have enough trouble keeping up with Apple stuff as it is!

The implementations for older people who want light surfing, those who travel a lot or have to go around hospitals, even uni campuses, and so on, could be quite impressive. But as an owner of an iPod Touch and iMac, with aspirations of an iPhone, Airport Express/Time Capsule and so on, it's seems a bit pointless for me. It's an excellent piece of kit, oozing Apple quality and design, but it squeezes into a number of spaces that I personally didn't think needed filling.

Daniel Moore

MF replies: We're pretty sure that for many people the iPad is all about 'want' rather than 'need', but people said exactly the same thing about the iPod when it launched.

27
The New York Times

For many the iPad will be a case of 'want', not 'need'.

Ultimate boost?

I just wanted to write in to highlight the most effective performance boost I've ever discovered in 20 years of using Macs. I have installed a 48GB solid state ExpressCard drive into my MacBook Pro and I use this as the system boot drive – and it cost just £85. My home folder and therefore all my files, folders, media and other general stuff is still on the internal hard disk. The performance gains to the MacBook Pro have been immense; it starts up in around 10 seconds and wakes from sleep in the blink of an eye.

Generally, navigating the *Finder* seems snappier, files and folders open almost as soon as you click the mouse. But the real bonus is in application response; previously ponderous apps (*Word* or *Illustrator* for example) start up almost instantly – no more waiting for the bouncing icon and watching menu bars and formatting windows pop into life one by one. It just appears, all at once.

Anyone with a MacBook Pro with an ExpressCard slot (now defunct – for no good reason I can see) can do this.

Tim van Someren

MF replies: Mac Pro owners could also do this, but as you point out in the rest of your letter, which sadly we didn't have room to print the entirety of here, moving your Home folder over to another drive (right-click the account in the Accounts option in System Preferences) is not without its own problems, since some apps, like *iDVD*, for instance, will search in the wrong place for vital system libraries.

Perfect Mac

I've been in the market for an eBook reader so I put money away at Christmas time, and hung onto it to see what Apple would throw out – and I'm not disappointed. Effectively, I get the reader I want, the chance to supplant my MacBook Pro as the living room IMDB/Facebook reader, and get rewarded by all the apps that are going to be written in the next 60 days. I'm expecting point-and-click adventures, board games and excellent magazine support.

I have no need for the 3G add-in, as on-the-go net access is handled by the iPhone. Better yet, we get everything we need from a "living room" computer, but with no IT issues. I don't expect I'll be repairing permissions on my iPad.

Martyn Pysanczyn

MF replies: We think you've identified the real selling point of the iPad here. It could become the perfect living room computer for many people who want to find out what else that actor was in or dash off a quick email without leaving the sofa. And, of course (once an iBooks Store appears on these shores), you can then take it to bed for a spot of reading. Perfect. ●

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
What do you think of the new iPad?

@scottishwildcat
"iPad has potential, but most of us don't have $500 + $15/month lying around to spend on something that has potential."

@brianpilates
"Was going to sell iMac to get MacBook, for notes, mail etc between training and teaching clients. Now thinking iPad & Pages."

@PocketPaulUK
"The iPad looks great but I can't think of any daily tasks it would do for me better than a MBP and iPhone already does."

@big_blue_wolf
"iPad is an ideal extra device for families who fight over the laptop! Great if you just want to surf, check emails and read books."

@spike_132000
"I don't like the fact it doesn't have Flash. To be honest, the sooner it gets jailbroken the better!"

@Kercal
"iPad launch seemed both uninspiring and ground-breaking. Message unclear: best way to view web? No. Best way to draw? Yes."

@JoeTaxpayer
"The $30 data plan will open new possibilities for mobile use."

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

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provenceholidaycottage.co.uk

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"the property was delightful, perfect location, what a great view!"

- the cottage
- the village
- pictures
- prices
- availability

of the cottage of the village

click on pictures to enlarge

The living room — eating area

The living room — sofa

"I needed a website for our French holiday cottage so people interested in renting it could see pictures and information before they book. 1&1's package included everything I needed and made the whole process really easy."
Christopher Evans, www.provenceholidaycottage.co.uk

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Say hello to iPad

Words: Graham Barlow, Susie Ochs, Ian Osborne and Christopher Phin
iPad images: courtesy of Apple **Photography:** Paul Curthoys

It's the most hotly anticipated Apple product of the year, and it's almost ready for release. Here's what you can expect…

Steve Jobs is famously reputed to have called the iPad "the most important thing I've ever done" just prior to its official announcement on January 27. Coming from somebody who worked on the first ever personal computer, the first Mac, the first iPod and the first iPhone, that's quite a big statement. Even more so when you consider that so many people are still scratching their heads over what the iPad is for exactly.

Sure, we all know you can view photos, watch movies and browse the web with it, but is it simply an overgrown iPhone, but without a phone? Is it a serious replacement for your laptop? Is it just an impressive toy? Or is it something else entirely? From what was said in Steve Jobs' keynote address, it's pretty clear that Apple are pitching it in the 'something else entirely' category. With the iPad, Apple is boldly trying to invent a new category of computing that sits neatly between the iPhone and MacBook. Will it work? Only time will tell. All we know right now is we want one, we're just not entirely sure why.

"Apple is boldly trying to invent a new category of computing that sits neatly between the iPhone and MacBook"

The WiFi-only iPad will be released at the end of March in the UK, with a 3G version expected 30 days later. UK pricing was yet to be announced at the time we went to press, but based on US numbers we'd expect the 16GB iPad to be around £399, £499 for the 32GB and £599 for the 64GB version. Please bear in mind that these are just estimates, so keep an eye on **www.macformat.co.uk** for the latest news on pricing. But in the meantime, here's our guide to everything the iPad can do, including a special 'hands-on' report from our US correspondent Susie Ochs, who got to test one out at the recent US press event. Enjoy! ●

iPad
9:41 AM
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iPod

What makes the

The iPad is shaping up to be a powerful beast. Let's take a look at what tech Apple has squeezed into the sleek case…

The Screen

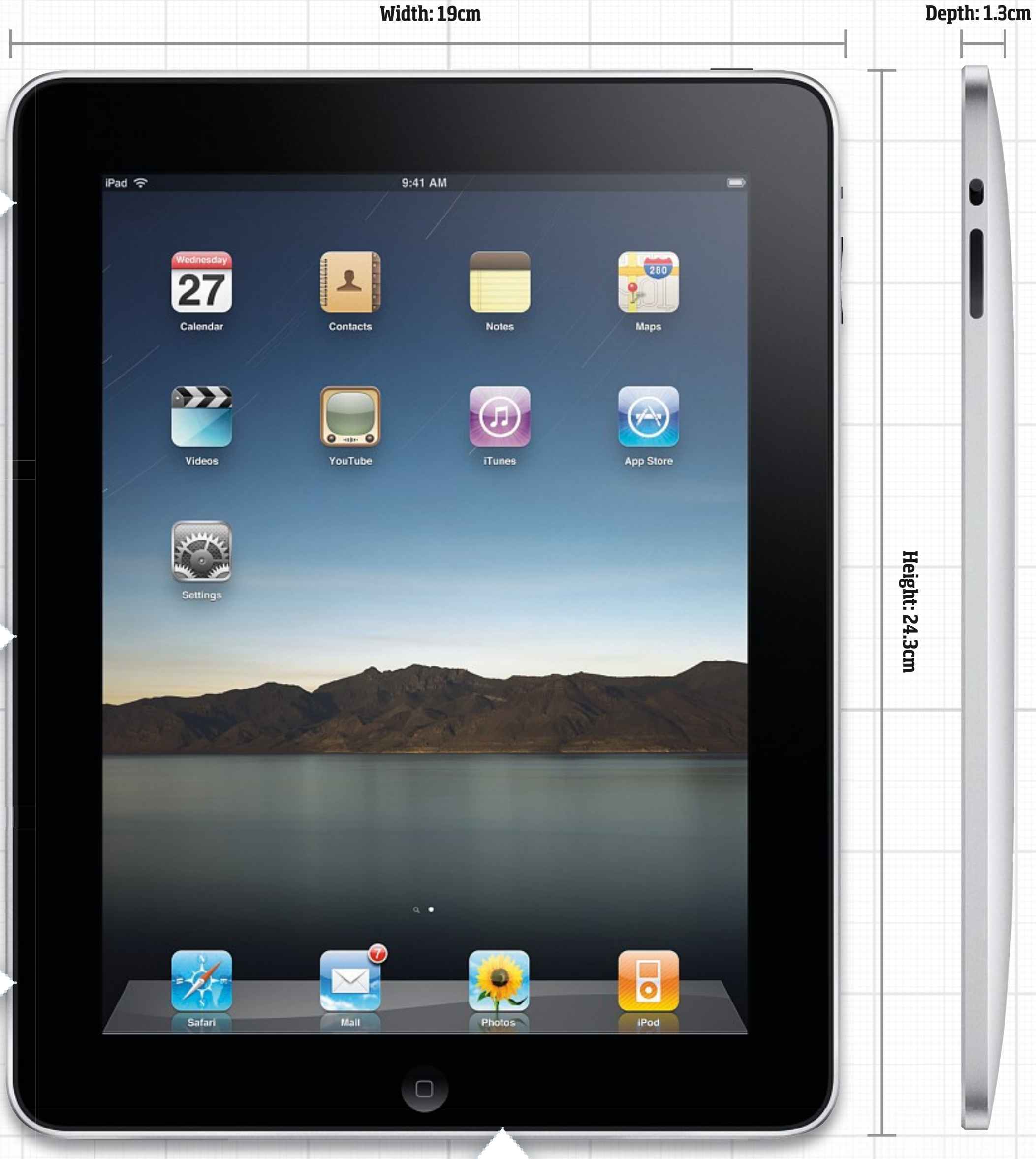
The iPad boasts a vibrant In-Plane Switching (IPS) Multi-Touch display. It's 24.6cm from corner to corner, and has a 1024x768 pixel resolution at 132 pixels per inch. IPS screens offer excellent colour reproduction and viewing angles. However, their slower response time has traditionally made them unattractive to gamers, as fast-paced games can suffer from motion blur. We'll find out whether this is the case on the iPad when we review it.

Battery and power

The iPad is powered by a built-in 25Whr rechargeable lithium-polymer battery. It lasts for up to 10 hours while surfing the web on WiFi, listening to music or watching video. According to Apple, it also lasts over a month on standby. It's charged via a power adaptor or a USB port.

Audio and video

A range of audio formats are supported. MP3 and AAC files from 16 to 320Kbps can be played, as can *iTunes'* Protected AAC tracks and those encoded as Apple Lossless, AIFF and WAV files. iPad has a frequency response of 20 to 20,000Hz, and a user-configurable maximum volume limit if you want to protect your ears. The iPad can connect to an external monitor or projector through its dock connector. With a VGA adaptor, it can output 1024x768 HD video. With a Component A/V cable it can manage 576p and 480p, or 576i and 480i with a Composite cable. You can sync music and movies with *iTunes* over USB, along with photos, contacts, calendars, apps and bookmarks.



Connectivity

The first iPads on the shelves will only offer WiFi internet connectivity, though they will soon be joined by a model that also has 3G. Unlike the iPhone and iPod touch, the iPad offers 802.11n compatibility, so it can take advantage of the faster wireless protocol where available. The iPad also features Bluetooth 2.1, with Enhanced Data Rate (EDR) for faster data transfer. The iPhone's Bluetooth is extremely limited, offering little more than headset and speaker connectivity, but the iPad can also connect to a Bluetooth keyboard.

All iPads have a 30-pin dock connector, similar to that found on non-shuffle iPods and the iPhone. There's a 3.5mm headphone jack for audio, and built-in speakers and a mic. There's no USB port or SD card reader, but dock adaptors for these are available. The adaptors are sold with camera compatibility in mind, but we look forward to testing to see if they do more.

iPad tick?

Location

The 3G-capable iPad has assisted GPS, so expect enhanced sat-nav applications. Both models also offer a digital compass.

Storage

Both the WiFi and WiFi+3G models come in 16GB, 32GB and 64GB capacities. There's no means of adding extra storage.

Sensors

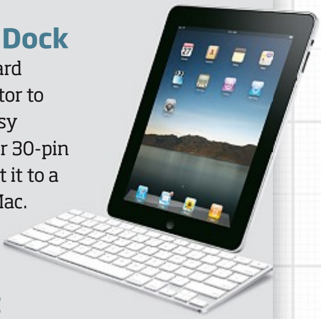
The iPad has an accelerometer, so it automatically detects the device's orientation. This means you can turn the device between portrait and landscape mode, and the screen adjusts accordingly. Games prosper from tilt control. It also has an ambient light sensor to adjust the brightness of the screen to the lighting conditions.

What's missing?

Some commentators bemoan the fact that the iPad has no forward-facing camera for video conferencing. But far more worrying for the average user is the apparent lack of *Flash* support, which renders some online sites non-viewable. The iPhone OS's limitations on multitasking seem to have been carried over to the iPad. Finally, there's no telephony support, which means no SMS as well.

PERIPHERAL VISION

iPad Keyboard Dock



This aluminium keyboard includes a dock connector to mount your iPad for easy typing. It also has a rear 30-pin port so you can connect it to a power supply or your Mac.

iPad Camera Connection Kit

A pair of connectors that fit the iPad's dock port. One's for connecting your camera through USB, the other is an SD card reader.

iPad USB Power Adapter

Charge your iPad directly from the mains. This one's American, but we're sure to get a UK version too.

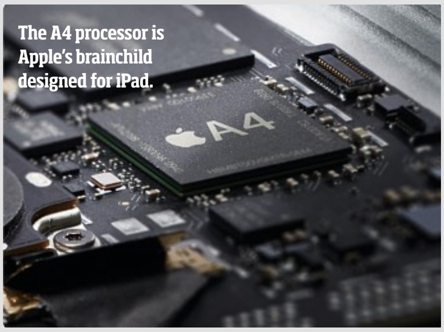
iPad Case

This attractive holding case protects your iPad in transit. You can also fold back the cover and use it as a stand. Just the thing for movies and photo slideshows.

THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

Back in April 2008, Apple bought processor developer PA Semi for $300 million. The iPad's processor, a custom-built 1GHz Apple A4 chip, is the result of this takeover. A faster processor than that enjoyed by the iPhone, but power-efficient enough to facilitate a great battery life, the A4 is a complete system on a chip that integrates a CPU, graphics, a memory controller and other functions.

Manufacturing its own chips is a significant step forward for Apple, giving the company total control over the iPad's innards, though its central processing functions are still based on an ARM design.



The A4 processor is Apple's brainchild designed for iPad.

How to use the iPad for…

Here's how you operate an iPad for a whole host of functions

According to Steve Jobs, a device that sits between the laptop and the smart phone must be better than either at several key tasks. So how does it perform in these all-important fields?

Web browsing

iPad's *Safari* is very similar to the iPhone's, though it obviously benefits from a bigger screen. It doesn't support *Flash*. Like all the apps on iPad, *Safari* makes use of 'popovers' – menus that look half way between OS X menus and drop-down lists. An example of popover is in the image from *Mail* on the right.

The iPad's Mail app interface adapts to the orientation for ease of use and keyboard input accessibility.

Email

iPhone users will find iPad's *Mail* app very familiar, but there are a few enhancements. When viewing in portrait mode, your inbox is displayed in a popover window, floating over the email you currently have open. Rotate the device to a landscape orientation and it's added as a permanently visible sidebar. Pressing Compose gives you a virtual keyboard that's almost life-sized in landscape mode. The iPhone's much-lauded auto-correct feature is retained in the iPad *Mail* app too.

Maps

The iPad's *Maps* application is very similar to the iPhone's. By default the classic street plan is displayed, but you can easily switch to a satellite view, a hybrid of the two or the new terrain view showing hills and valleys, which is found on the Google Maps website but not the iPhone's *Maps*. Integration with Google Street is again implemented, and it's far more usable on the iPad's larger screen.

While the Maps app is similar to the iPhone's, this version takes full advantage of the iPad's larger screen, making for better navigability.

Photos

Like the iPhone app, *Photos* lets you flick through your snaps by swiping your finger over the screen. Open pictures can once again be manipulated using Gestures. The iPad application displays albums as stacks of photos. Tap or pinch to open the stack and look for specific photos. Syncing with your Mac retains Faces, Places and Events information from *iPhoto*, and you can also view a slideshow set to music.

> *"Video viewing is a key feature with the iPad. The original YouTube application has been revamped, making it much easier to navigate"*

Movies

Video viewing is a key feature with the iPad. The original YouTube application has been revamped, making it easier to navigate. But there's also a dedicated video-viewing application; you don't have to watch your films and home movies through the iPod feature. Video files are divided into movies, TV shows and music. Select a movie and you're invited to pick a chapter, or watch from the beginning. Selecting a television show brings up a list of available episodes, and tapping the screen toggles between full screen and widescreen modes. With no buttons or controls to get in the way of the video, you can really immerse yourself in the on-screen action.

Music

iPad includes iPod functionality, as well as full access to the iTunes Store. Making good use of the larger screen, navigating through your music feels more akin to the Mac's *iTunes* than the iPhone's *iPod* app. Albums are displayed in a grid, and clicking on an individual album gives you a floating window listing its songs.

Calendar

Calendar is far more accessible on the iPad. Taking its lead from OS X's *iCal*, the extra screen space allows individual event titles to be displayed in the Month view, instead of entries being indicated by a dot under the date. Weekly, daily and list views are also available, and the application can be navigated in portrait or landscape orientation.

Contacts

The iPad *Contacts* app is designed to look just like a paper address book. Your contacts list is shown on the left-hand page, with the currently selected entry displayed on the right.

Games

The iPad offers exciting opportunities for games developers. Existing iPhone games will of course run on an iPad, but the larger form factor allows for a greater degree of interaction with the touch screen, meaning games will be specifically written for the iPad. For example, Gameloft's first-person shooter *N.O.V.A.* – demoed at the iPad launch event – benefits from an overhauled interface. To select a weapon you drag its icon onto the fire button, a feature that would be space-prohibitive on the tiny iPhone. An expandable on-screen map has been added too, taking even more advantage of the larger screen.

Long-time iPhone supporter Electronic Arts demoed an iPad version of its popular racing game *Need for Speed Shift*. You can now switch to an in-car view by tapping on the vehicle. Mirrors have also been added; touch them to switch to a rear view.

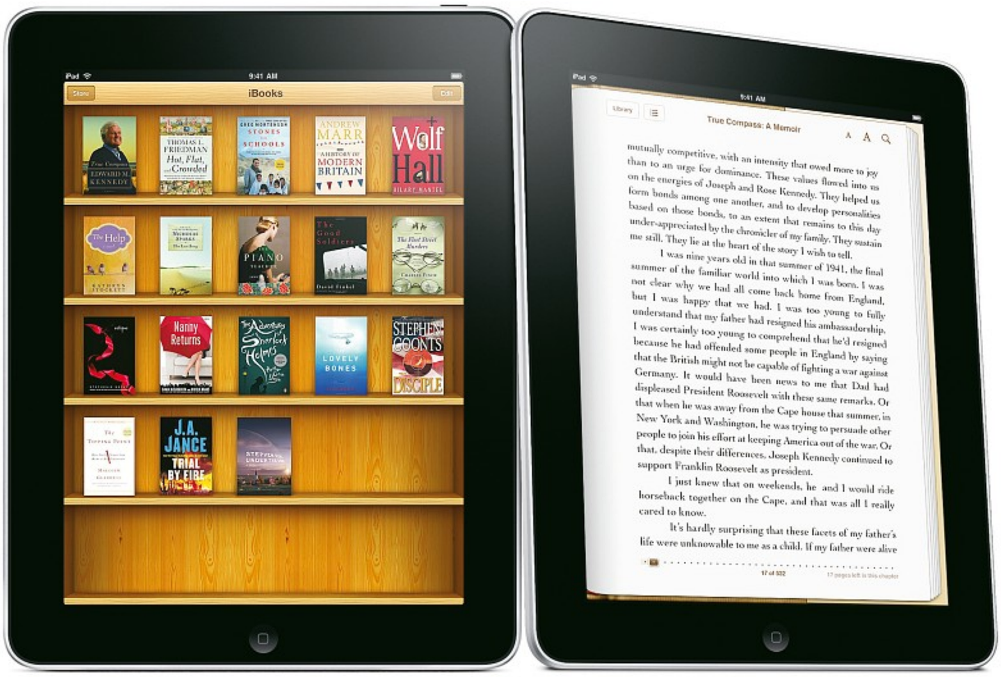
These developments have been achieved in just a couple of weeks, building on already-existing iPhone games. Just imagine what will be possible over time…

Ebooks

One of the iPad's key selling points is its new *iBooks* application that includes an *iTunes*-like online store where you can purchase and download ebooks.

Books purchased through *iBooks* are displayed on an attractive virtual bookshelf. Just tap a cover to open it. Hold the iPad in Portrait mode to display a single page, or turn it sideways to show two facing pages. Graphically it looks just like a physical book, with the edges of the cover visible around the pages' perimeter and a shadow in the centre as they bend into the spine. To turn a page, just tap the side of the screen. Like most ebook readers, you can adjust the text size, but with iPad, you can also change the font.

Five of the world's largest publishers are already on board; HarperCollins, Penguin, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan and Hachette Book Group. More are sure to follow in the near future.



mutually competitive, with an intensity that owed more to joy than to an urge for dominance. These values flowed into us on the energies of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. They helped us form bonds among one another, and to develop personalities based on those bonds, to an extent that remains to this day under-appreciated by the chronicler of my family. They sustain me still. They lie at the heart of the story I wish to tell.

I was nine years old in that summer of 1941, the final summer of the familiar world into which I was born. I was not clear why we had all come back home from England, but I was happy that we had. I was too young to fully understand that my father had resigned his ambassadorship. I was certainly too young to comprehend that he'd resigned because he had offended some people in England by saying that the British might not be capable of fighting a war against Germany. It would have been news to me that Dad had displeased President Roosevelt with these same remarks. Or that when he was away from the Cape house that summer, in New York and Washington, he was trying to persuade other people to join his effort at keeping America out of the war. Or that, despite their differences, Joseph Kennedy continued to support Franklin Roosevelt as president.

I just knew that on weekends, he and I would ride horseback together on the Cape, and that was all I really cared to know.

It's hardly surprising that these facets of my father's life were unknowable to me as a child. If my father were alive

17 of 332 17 pages left in this chapter

The iBooks app makes it very simple to add new books to your virtual bookshelf.

iPhone apps

According to Apple, "virtually every one" of the 140,000 applications is already available in the App Store function on the iPad. At the time of writing it hasn't elaborated on which ones won't work, though anything requiring telephony or a camera are obviously not iPad-friendly at this time. An iPhone/iPod touch application can be run with "pixel-for-pixel accuracy" in a window the size of the iPhone's screen. Alternatively, they can be scaled to fill the iPad's viewing area using a technique called pixel doubling. A new version of the iPhone Software Development Kit (SDK) has been released for programmers to tailor their applications specifically for the iPad, taking full advantage of the large touchscreen display.

> *"One of the iPad's key selling points is its new iBooks application, an iTunes-like online store where you can purchase and download ebooks"*

But perhaps most interesting is that Apple's *iWork* applications have been reimagined for the iPad. Mobile versions of *Keynote*, *Pages* and *Numbers* are compatible with OS X's *iWork '09* and *Microsoft Office*, and are sold individually for just $10 each, which is around £5.90. This is welcome and aggressive pricing from Apple. »

» HOME SCREEN / Like the iPhone

The iPad doesn't run on a tablet edition of Mac OS X, as many had hoped in the run-up to its release. Instead, it's based on the iPhone OS, but with certain revisions. The advantage of this is that it's already familiar to 75 million iPhone/iPod touch users. The home screen is similar to the iPhone's, with available applications displayed as icons on a more spacious backdrop. The latter can be personalised by adding your own background wallpaper or photo. As with the iPhone and iPod touch, swiping to the left once again takes you to the next page of apps. The home screen lacks the *Calculator*, *Weather*, *Clock* and *Stocks* apps. Will they be available in another form?

HANDS-ON REPORT!

Our US correspondent Susie Ochs had all the luck and got her mitts on the new iPad at Apple's event.
Photography by Paul Curthoys

But what's it *really* like?

We rescue the iPad from all the hype for a genuine first look

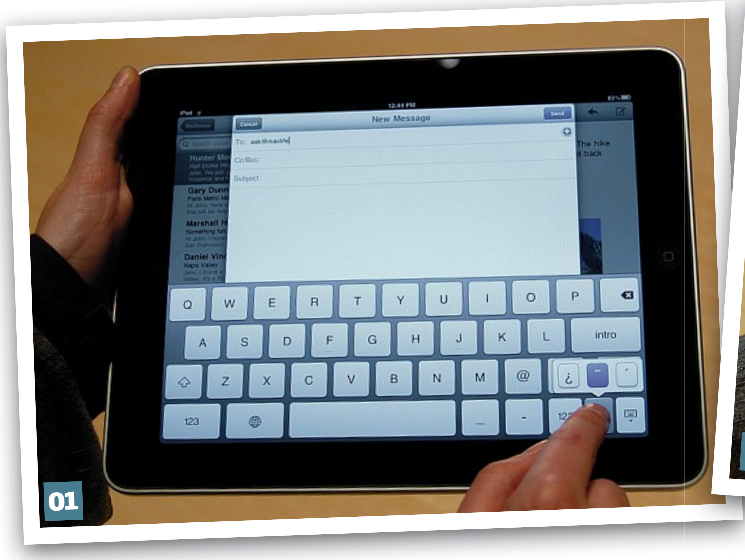
Apple provided hands-on time with its new device after Wednesday's big announcement, letting dozens of greasy-fingered journalists poke, swipe and drool over the svelte hardware and the first-party built-in applications. And while some of the software was a little underwhelming in its pre-release state, playing with the iPad quickly revealed its potential for greatness. We simply can't wait to see what developers make for it.

Picking up an iPad for the first time, you immediately notice its thin, light body, weighing in at just 1.5lbs and only half an inch thick. The aluminum backing has a graceful curve, and the smooth glass screen, with its attractive black border, just begs to be touched. The iPad is well-balanced enough to hold in one hand like a tray of drinks while using the other hand to navigate, or to grip with both hands while you drive the UI with your thumbs – or even to balance on your knees while poking at it with both index fingers. We never felt in danger of dropping it or felt our hands were too small.

The 9.7-inch screen is brightly illuminated by LED backlighting, and the IPS technology kept the images viewable from wide angles without appearing to fade. Anyone who's ever used an iPhone with its brightness cranked up to navigate a dark room during a power outage will be glad to know the iPad gets even brighter. Despite the same oleophobic coating found on the iPhone 3GS, the iPad's screen picked up fingerprints like mad. In fact, a friendly Apple gadget handler had to keep wiping it clean for us, smiling politely at our jokes about how the tech press are at least 30% more oily than the average citizen.

> *"The 9.7-inch screen is brightly illuminated by LED backlighting, and the IPS technology kept the images viewable from wide angles"*

The units we saw had only WiFi (802.11n) and Bluetooth 2.1+EDR for connectivity, since the 3G-equipped models won't be available at first launch. Web pages loaded quickly and looked fabulous. Imagine the ease and fun of navigating websites on the Multi-Touch iPhone or iPod touch, but with none of the frustrations of those devices' small screen sizes. You can see the whole page at once – and actually read it – and



[01] The Mail app's touchscreen keyboard in landscape orientation – almost full size!

[02] This is the iBooks app from which you can purchase ebooks for your ebookcase.

[03] Reading an ebook is more natural than you might imagine – just swipe to flick pages.

[04] Albums displayed in iTunes look even more impressive on the iPad's screen.

then still zoom down to an area of interest with just one tap or pinch. You'll quickly stop caring that your favourite site doesn't have an iPhone-optimised version, because on the iPad, full-size sites just work. Of course, running an iPhone OS means the iPad doesn't have *Flash*, so sites that rely on *Flash*-based navigation interfaces, or feature *Flash* videos or games, are still useless here.

Navigation aid

The *Maps* application also benefits greatly from the increased screen space, with Google Street View showing half a city block comfortably (no squinting on your part). Location Services triangulates your position based on proximity to WiFi hotspots, plus it uses the digital compass – only the upcoming 3G models will feature assisted GPS and cell-tower triangulation as well. Still, it found our location in downtown San Francisco in about a second, and the compass helped the *Star Walk* app ($2.99 in the App Store) orientate its view of the night sky based on which way we turned.

It was impossible to hear the built-in speaker in such a loud room, but a tiny mono speaker does reside on the bottom-right, near the 30-pin dock connector. A Sleep/wake button, mute switch and volume rocker are all that resides on the slim slides of the device, with only the black Home button gracing the front, blending into near-visibility, especially since the iPad works in any orientation.

> *"We ran into some problems with the first-party software, although Apple still has ample time to fix them before shipping"*

We ran into some problems with the first-party software, although Apple still has ample time to fix it before shipping. We spent some time with the software keyboard, for example, and found it easier to use than the iPhone's, thanks to the larger keys and more space between them, although it's still virtually impossible to type without looking because of the lack of tactile feedback. Switching keyboard layouts for other languages is a snap, but after we had fiddled with that setting and then flipped back to English, the software keyboard got a little buggy, often not rendering the whole way when we held the iPad in landscape orientation.

[05] All the Multi-Touch glory that comes with the iPhone works on the iPad too!

A few glitches

The well-designed *Mail* client lacked a media browser for adding images to new messages, although we could copy and paste images from the web, the *Photos* app, and other emails into new messages. The icons on one home screen stopped responding temporarily, fixed by cycling the power. But all in all, Apple did a fabulous job of designing the UI for all the iPad's default apps – their many contextual menus providing all the control you need without cluttering up the screen with unnecessary buttons and sliders.

The demo iPads were loaded with unmodified iPhone apps, so we could test the experience of blowing up an iPhone-sized app interface to fit the iPad's screen, with a tap of the 2x button. This works by simply doubling the pixel size, without any additional smoothing or scaling. In a text-heavy app like *Facebook*, the pixellation was noticeable and detracted from the ease of reading. But in fast-moving games like *Super Monkey Ball* and *Need for Speed*, we didn't notice as much, and the trade-off between tiny pixels and bigger ones was totally worth it for the more immersive experience of playing on a big screen. We can't wait to see what game developers can do programming for the big screen.

The bottom line is that the iPad has tons of potential to be a huge hit for Apple, and could well become as loved by its users as the iPod touch and iPhone are today. It would be hard to have an iPad as your only computer, since you need to sync it with *iTunes* on a traditional Mac or PC. Still, the hardware is solid, the touchscreen works beautifully, and the potential for innovative software goes through the roof. Once you pick one up, it's extremely hard to part with. Just ask the Apple employees who gently repeated, "We're getting ready to close it down," over and over until we finally left the demo room.

So, what do we think?

Reactions from the MacFormat team and industry experts

"I'll reserve full judgement until I get my hands on one, but for now my status can best be described as indecently excited. The critics are right, it doesn't really do anything 'new', but for me, App Store, Games plus *Pages* on an iPod touch that's roughly four times the size is enough. The lack of a video camera doesn't bother me at all. Without the required relatives in Australia I have nobody to video chat with anyway, and even if I did, there's a Mac for that."

Graham Barlow,
Editor, MacFormat

"The key thing about the iPad for me is that it moves access to the internet from the study to the sofa, or even the bedroom or kitchen, in a way that netbooks do only very clumsily. That opens up possibilities for publishers to create content that breaks no new ground technically, but is massively different in terms of the reader's experience. And it does so in an environment where, unlike the desktop web, people are used to the idea of paying a small amount for content."

Stuart Anderton,
Publishing Director, MacFormat

"Apple's ambition seems uncharacteristically modest. It's the industry, not Apple, that's talking about computing paradigms being revolutionised, and since, at the moment, the iPad acts more like a peripheral than a computer, it looks like the current incarnation at least isn't ready to change computing for ever.

Do I want an iPad as a replacement for my MacBook Pro? No. Do I want one as a replacement for my iPhone? No. Do I want one? Yes."

Christopher Phin,
Deputy editor, MacFormat

"The iPad is a possible future for personal computing, a device which perhaps provides you with less freedom (no tinkering, 'closed' apps), but offers greater usability in return. In a sense, it appears to be the 'computer for the rest of us' Jobs initially envisioned with the original Mac, but done right this time. However, in the brutal light of the present day, the iPad currently prompts many questions. Can you print from it? Will it be possible to switch a Mac for an iPad and then populate sync devices such as iPods with it? Will iWork for iPad *be comparable to its desktop cousin, or is iPad destined to become a device more consuming, only paying lip service to producing?"*

Craig Grannell,
MacFormat contributor

"I was hoping for more; a tablet-format media Mac based on a modified edition of OS X rather than a giant iPod touch. The iPad might find a niche market among people who just want the internet, but Jobs' claim that it's 'a third category of device… between a laptop and a smartphone' seems a little optimistic. Things could well change as the technology matures, but in its current form, I don't see what it can offer people who already own a MacBook and an iPhone."

Ian Osborne,
Reviews editor, MacFormat

"Although not a disruptive piece of technology, the product is clearly defined for people who want the functionality and not the real estate of either an iPhone or a laptop. As you know, Computer Warehouse has been selling the Modbook, the only real tablet Mac, for over a year so we reckon the iPad will be a real winner. Our enterprise team has already had substantial interest from a number of clients for whom we already supply iPhones, and author iPhone custom apps for."

Jonathan Cole,
Chairman, Computer Warehouse

"I think the iPad changes a lot in education. Many schools struggle with reliability and don't have the support they need. Teachers will find the device approachable, and kids are already very familiar with the iPhone OS. I think the iPad will be a breakthrough product in education."

Fraser Speirs, Head of Computing, Cedars School of Excellence, and developer

"Kindle dead. Netbook dead. Comics alive."

Dave Gibbons, Comic book artist

How we predicted iPad

MacFormat's crystal ball seems to have been crystal clear…

Back in June 2009, we published a feature on the phenomenon of cheap, small 'netbooks' that asked the question: what would an Apple netbook look like? (And, perhaps more importantly, what would it do, and how would it behave?)

When the iPad was finally revealed, we hope you can forgive us a moment of smugness. To the right, the iPad; below, our original concept. So what exactly did we get right, and where were we way off the mark?

iPhone OS

✓ We correctly predicted that the netbook/tablet would run the iPhone's operating system. It's a no-brainer, really; not only is the OS simple, secure and stable, and well suited to a touch interface, but it also means that Apple takes 30% of the price of all Apps sold for it, partly to cover its hosting overheads.

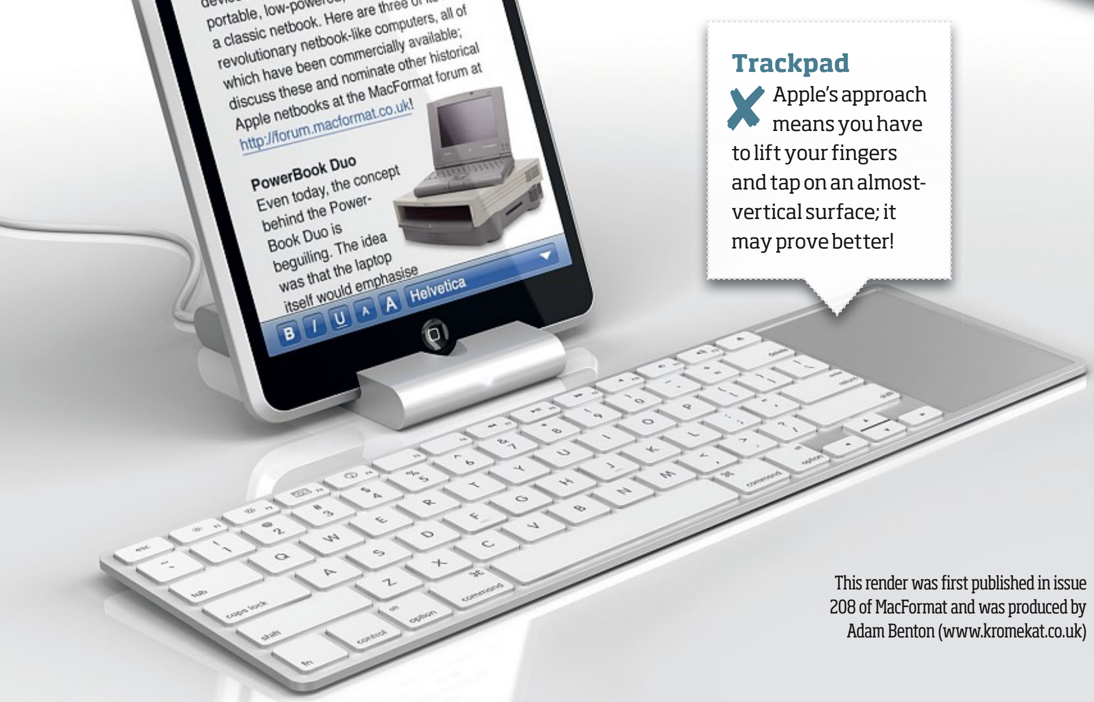
Calendar
Contacts
Notes
Maps
Videos
YouTube
iTunes
App Store
Settings
Safari
Mail
Photos
iPod

Webcam

✗ We still think Apple's wrong not to have included a webcam for video chatting, and many of you agree.

The basic shape

✓ While the world was envisaging a small, cheap laptop, it was clear to us that what Apple would do was a tablet. We're delighted to have nailed the dock idea too, even getting Bluetooth right.



Retro Apple netbooks feature

Retro Apple netbooks

Christopher Phin

You don't have to look to the future to see what an Apple netbook might look like. Several times in its life has Apple produced devices with all the hallmarks – small, portable, low-powered, relatively cheap – of a classic netbook. Here are three of its most revolutionary netbook-like computers, all of which have been commercially available; discuss these and nominate other historical Apple netbooks at the MacFormat forum at http://forum.macformat.co.uk!

PowerBook Duo

Even today, the concept behind the PowerBook Duo is beguiling. The idea was that the laptop itself would emphasise

Trackpad

✗ Apple's approach means you have to lift your fingers and tap on an almost-vertical surface; it may prove better!

This render was first published in issue 208 of MacFormat and was produced by Adam Benton (www.kromekat.co.uk)

» iWORK

Our render also showed the tablet running a basic word processing package, and while ours lacked both the flair and ambition of the iWork suite that Apple introduced alongside the iPad, we're still happy both that we were right to suggest it would happen - even getting details like the text wrap correct - and that Apple also saw the need for a decent office suite if the iPad was to be more than a novelty.

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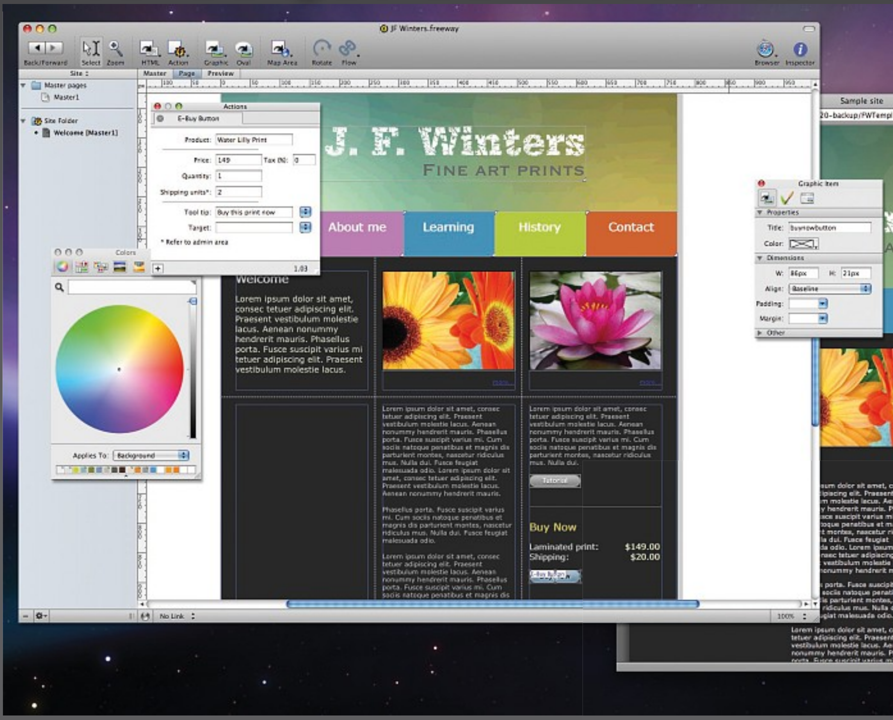
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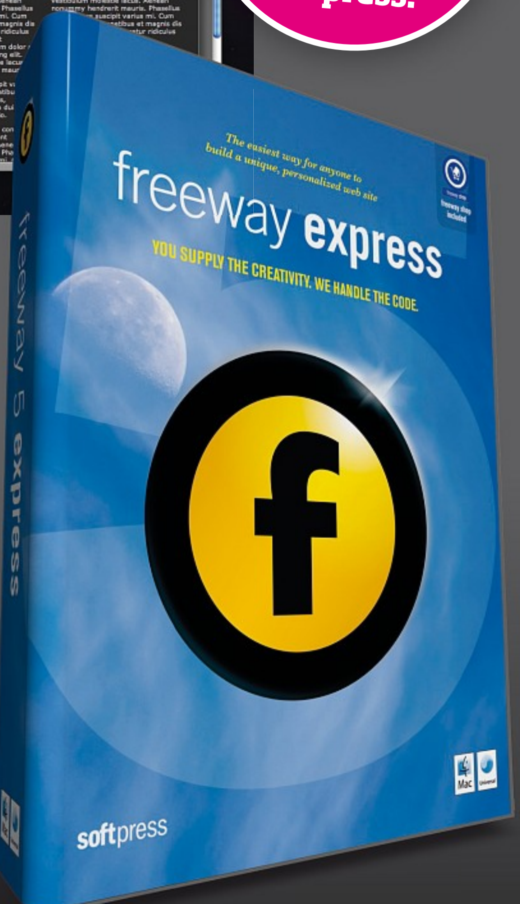
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Ways to improve your Mac

without breaking the bank

Illustration by MagicTorch

Craig Grannell *finds the best affordable software and hardware for enhancing your Mac experience*

With the current financial climate, belts are tightening and wallets are glued shut. Value for money has become more important than ever. But if you've just got yourself a new Mac (or indeed an old one), it needn't cost the earth to enhance it.

Hardware that would have cost thousands ten years ago can now be bought for a few crisp tenners. And in the software space, Mac users are blessed. We might not have the number of apps that exist for Windows, but the thousands that are available are usually of a very high quality. Indie products are rivalling software created by huge corporations, meaning it's now easy to get a fantastic app for a fraction of the price.

This feature provides a checklist of the best ways to improve your Mac, balancing affordability and quality. We've selected ten items of essential hardware and 20 pieces of top-notch software that you can't afford to miss. »

» ON THE DISC
Find many featured apps on your disc

10 hardware add-ons

Make your Mac more versatile, usable and fun to use

RAM upgrade

(£40+) Various manufacturers **www.crucial.com/uk**

Extra RAM is just about the best investment you can make to power up your Mac for relatively little outlay. A Mac starved of RAM lurches along, struggling to work with virtual RAM. But with oodles of the real stuff, even a Mac that's a few years old will run more apps simultaneously and work with larger files more easily. RAM prices vary, but an extra 2GB for an iMac or MacBook often costs as little as £40. If you've got the funds, though, get 4GB of RAM inside your Mac. If that means removing a stick of preinstalled RAM, you can always get a few quid back by selling it on eBay.

Kingston MEMORY

Apple keyboard

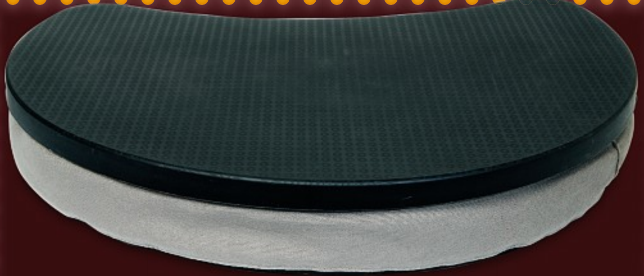
(£29–£55) Apple **www.apple.com/uk/keyboard/**

It's important to have a good keyboard. Despite Apple's dodgy history with keyboard design, its current range is fantastic and affordable. In use, Apple keyboards feel robust and responsive, and their low profile is reminiscent of laptop keyboards (and happens to be more ergonomic than previous Apple designs). Note: Apple offers wired keyboards with numeric keypads, and wired and wireless ones without, so be sure to order the right model!

Media reader

(From £10) Belkin and others **www.belkin.co.uk**

If you're lucky enough to own a new iMac or MacBook Pro, you'll have a built-in SD card slot. If not, getting digital photos onto your Mac requires finding a cable, connecting your camera to your Mac, finding your camera's dead, getting all angry, recharging it, turning the camera on (finally), and syncing images with *iPhoto*. Save time and sanity by getting a USB card reader. The depicted Belkin Universal Media Reader costs about £15 and supports 56 cards types.



Bräda laptop support

(£9.99) Ikea **www.ikea.com/gb/en/catalog/products/60115791**

Laptops pack a lot of power into a tiny space, and generate a lot of heat. Therefore, your lap is probably not the best of locations to put your Apple laptop for any length of time – unless, of course, you have protection! Many laptop supports exist, but our Deputy Editor swears by the rather lovely Bräda from Ikea. It costs under a tenner, has a formable base, washable fabric, and even a little pocket for your iPod.

Skype headset

(From £20) Sennheiser and others **www.sennheiser.co.uk**

With the exception of the Mac mini and Mac Pro, modern Macs include all you need to make free calls using Skype. However, the built-in speakers and microphone can lead to echoing and feedback. For making regular calls, buy a dedicated headset. Prices start from around £20 for something that won't fall to bits. Depicted is the fantastic Sennheiser PC 146 USB, available online from about £45, and it includes both stereo mini-jack and USB connection options.

Wireless router

(About £65) Netgear **www.netgear.co.uk**

If you've not yet gone wireless at home, you don't know what you're missing. Having devices connected to a router by cables feels positively prehistoric when you can wander about your home at will and still enjoy internet on your laptop, iPhone or iPod touch. Wireless routers start at around £20, but Netgear's DGN2000 is an 'N' series router (for faster speeds) worth the extra £45. (Cable users should consider Belkin's N+ Wireless Cable/DSL router.)

My Passport portable hard drive

(From £50) Western Digital **www.wdc.com/en/products/index.asp?cat=9**

An external hard drive enables you to back up content should your Mac's hard drive fail. We recommend Western Digital My Passport drives – they're mid-priced, but for the cash you get a tiny, almost silent, drive that you can take anywhere with you. So clone your drive with *SuperDuper!* and take 'your Mac' to work in your pocket!

Wacom Bamboo

(From £60) Wacom **www.wacom.co.uk**

Don't let anyone tell you that a tablet is just for digital artists to use – Wacom's Bamboo can benefit pretty much every Mac owner. In use, Wacom tablets offer an easy multitouch interface, which is akin to a modern laptop's trackpad. It also enables pixel-perfect precision via stylus input. The key benefits of this gadget include being ergonomic (thereby helping out RSI sufferers) and enabling you to 'snap' your pointer to a location on-screen just by touching the equivalent position on the tablet – much faster than using a mouse.

Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)

(£84.99) APC **www.apc.com**

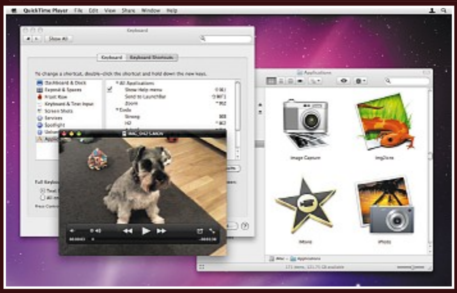
If you use your Mac for anything important, a UPS is an essential purchase. In the event of a power cut, the battery back-up kicks into action, giving you time to save your work and safely shut down your Mac. Additionally, a UPS will provide protection from surges, spikes and other major power fluctuations. APC is a leader in this particular field and the BE700G-UK is a reliable and impressive UK-specific model.

Powered USB hub

(From £20) Belkin and others **www.belkin.com/uk/**

Modern Macs have relatively few USB ports. The solution is a USB hub. Cheap hubs draw power from your Mac and can fare poorly when unpowered devices are plugged into them. Therefore, invest in a slightly more expensive powered hub. The £29.99 Belkin 2-in-1 is a great option.

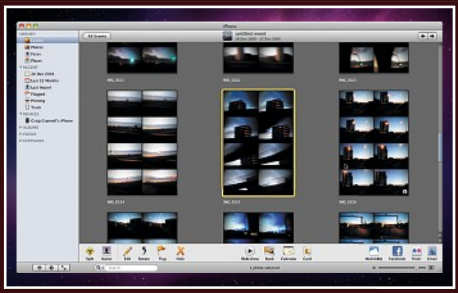
Top 20 apps for



Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard)

(£25) Apple **www.apple.com/uk/macosx/**

Snow Leopard is the most misunderstood OS upgrade Apple's ever released. Because most changes are 'under the hood', it was dismissed as a service pack, and plenty of Mac users have yet to make the jump. Here's our advice: if you've a compatible Mac and £25, you'd be crazy not to upgrade. At the very least, Snow Leopard will claw back 4GB of hard drive space and make your Mac experience snappier. But it's the refinements throughout that make it a joy to use, such as enhanced Stacks and Exposé, and the revamped *Preview*. So while there's no standout major new feature – no Spotlight, Quick Look or *Time Machine* – the dozens of small updates are even better.



iLife

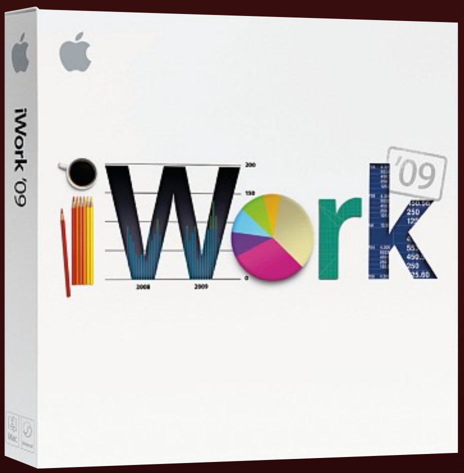
(£71) Apple **www.apple.com/uk/ilife/**

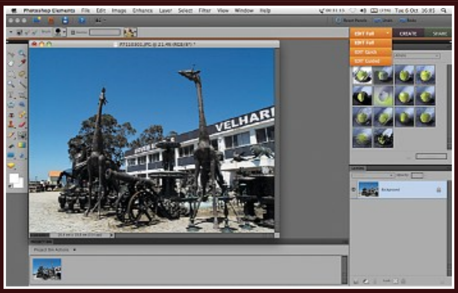
All new Macs will come with the latest *iLife* pre-installed, but if your Mac is a few years old, you could be missing out. New and great features of *iLife '09* include facial recognition and online sharing in *iPhoto*, enhanced editing themes and titles in *iMovie*, and utterly fantastic guitar amps and stomp-boxes in *GarageBand*. And if your *iLife's* older than *iLife '08*, you've yet to experience *iPhoto* Events and unified Search, *GarageBand's* Magic GarageBand jamming and multi-take recording features, and *iWeb's* live widgets. *iLife* might be an obvious inclusion in this feature, but its place here is more than justified – it's not only one of the best creative suites for the Mac, but it's also fantastic value for money.

iWork

(£71) Apple **www.apple.com/uk/iwork/**

If you've bought your first Mac or switched from Windows and are on the hunt for an office suite, think twice before buying *Microsoft Office*. Apple's *iWork* provides equivalents for *Word* (*Pages*), *Excel* (*Numbers*), and *PowerPoint* (*Keynote*), but with a more Mac-like experience and superior layout capabilities. And even the cheapest version of *Office (Home and Student Edition)* is at best a few quid more than *iWork*; once you hit the *Business Edition*, Apple's suite is nearly £200 less.





Photoshop Elements

(£77) Adobe **www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/**

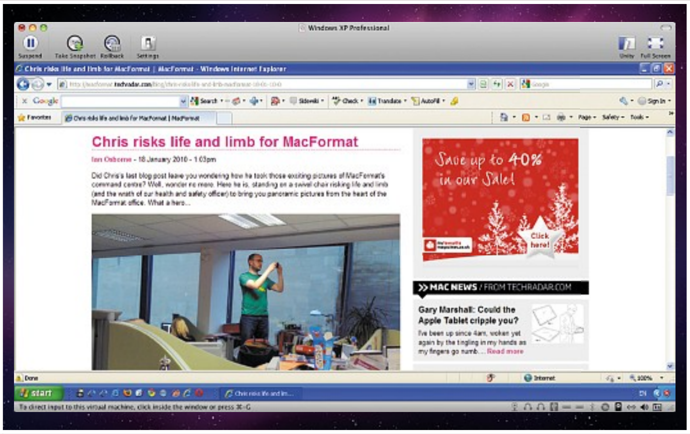
Although *iPhoto* provides basic enhancement tools, Adobe's affordable apps are where it's at if you want freedom when it comes to editing your imagery (or creating bitmap-based images from scratch). Many tools in *Photoshop Elements* are pretty much the same as those in the full *Photoshop* (£600). By comparison, *Photoshop Elements* can be found for as little as £60. But to spend even less, consider *Pixelmator* (£37, **www.pixelmator.com**) and *Acorn* (£31, **flyingmeat.com/acorn/**).

TechTool Pro

(£61) Micromat **www.micromat.com**

Hard drives are fragile and things can easily go wrong with them. Although every *MacFormat* reader is of course backing data up (if not, check My Passport Portable Hard Drive on the previous spread and *SuperDuper!* on this one, then rectify matters accordingly), it's good to fix a damaged drive if possible. *TechTool Pro* can diagnose and potentially repair problems, rebuild and optimise volumes and attempt data recovery. It's first aid for your Mac, so always have a copy handy.

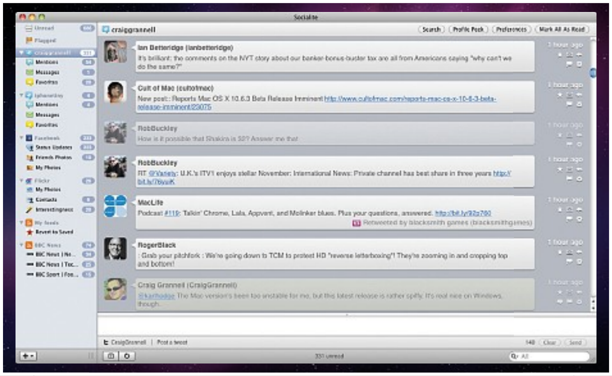
improving OS X


Windows XP Professional
Suspend
Take Snapshot
Rollback
Settings
Unity
Full Screen
Chris risks life and limb for MacFormat
Save up to 40% in our Sale!
Click here!
MAC NEWS / FROM TECHRADAR.COM
Gary Marshall: Could the Apple Tablet cripple you?
start

VMware Fusion

(£54) VMware **www.vmware.com/products/fusion/**

For years, Windows in a window was a nightmarish, sluggish affair. But with the arrival of Intel Macs, virtualisation software has come a long way in a short time. *VMware Fusion* is our favourite (although *Parallels Desktop* comes close – see **parallels.com** for more on that app), making it absurdly easy to get a virtual Windows PC running on your Mac. Switchers can run Windows-only apps; web designers can test in *IE*; no-one has to suffer the horrors of owning a real PC.


Socialite
craiggrannell
Search
Profile Pack
Preferences
Mark All As Read
1 hour ago
Post a tweet
Clear
Send
331 unread

Ian Betteridge (ianbetteridge)
It's brilliant: the comments on the NYT story about our banker-bonus-buster tax are all from Americans saying "why can't we do the same?"

Cult of Mac (cultofmac)
New post:: Reports Mac OS X 10.6.3 Beta Release Imminent http://www.cultofmac.com/reports-mac-os-x-10-6-3-beta-release-imminent/23075

RobBuckley
How is it possible that Shakira is 33? Answer me that

RobBuckley
RT @Variety: U.K.'s ITV1 enjoys stellar November: International News: Private channel has best share in three years http://bit.ly/7byalK

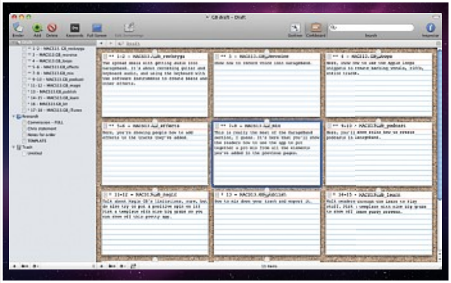
MacLife
Podcast #119: Talkin' Chrome, Lala, Appvent, and Molinker blues. Plus your questions, answered. http://bit.ly/92z760
Retweeted by blacksmith games (blacksmithgames)

RogerBlack
: Grab your pitchfork : We're going down to TCM to protest HD "reverse letterboxing"! They're zooming in and cropping top and bottom!

Socialite

(£13) Realmac Software **www.realmacsoftware.com/socialite/**

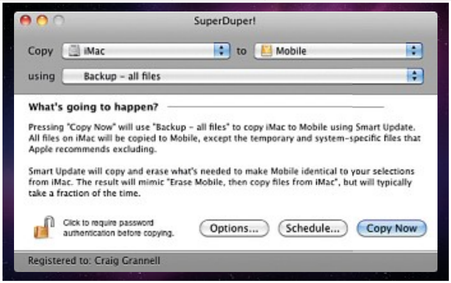
If you're into social networking, you won't stop with Facebook. Chances are you share 140 characters of wisdom on Twitter, comment on Flickr photos, and use Digg, RSS and Google Reader. *Socialite* saves you using multiple apps, bringing social networks together under a single interface. Images can be viewed and uploaded to Facebook or Flickr, and comments sent via the Quick Send dialog.



Scrivener

(£27) Literature & Latte
www.literatureandlatte.com

We already mentioned *Pages* for word processing, but it's not great for huge projects. If you're writing a novel or a script, or you're an academic trying to sort notes and research and write a coherent paper, you need *Scrivener*. This app enables you to create outlines, refer to synopses on a corkboard, concentrate on writing by using full-screen mode, take snapshots for version control, and export your masterpiece in a number of formats.


SuperDuper!
Options...
Schedule...
Copy Now

Copy iMac to Mobile
using Backup – all files

What's going to happen?

Pressing "Copy Now" will use "Backup – all files" to copy iMac to Mobile using Smart Update. All files on iMac will be copied to Mobile, except the temporary and system-specific files that Apple recommends excluding.

Smart Update will copy and erase what's needed to make Mobile identical to your selections from iMac. The result will mimic "Erase Mobile, then copy files from iMac", but will typically take a fraction of the time.

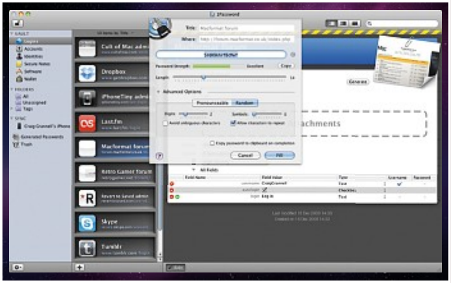
Click to require password authentication before copying.

Registered to: Craig Grannell

SuperDuper!

(£19) Shirt Pocket
www.shirt-pocket.com/SuperDuper/

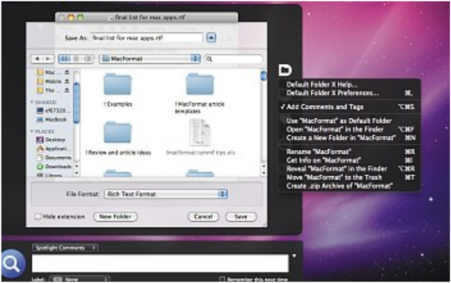
Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) introduced *Time Machine*, for backing up your Mac and accessing older versions of files. Occasionally, though, it has problems and *Time Machine* also requires the OS install DVD for recovery. So we recommend investing in *SuperDuper!* and cloning your Mac to a second external back-up drive. After doing so, getting up and running (should your Mac's internal hard drive fail) only takes as long as a reboot from the clone.


1Password
Dropbox
Last.fm
Skype
Tumblr

1Password

(£25) Agile Web Solutions
www.agilewebsolutions.com/products/1Password

1Password is a secure vault for passwords, banking details, online logins and application registration codes and documents. The interface is usable and the app also integrates with web browsers. This means if you add a password to *1Password*, you don't have to remember it again (and you can also use far more complex passwords). *1Password* saves time and worry, and the security and polish ensures it's a winner.


final list for mac apps.rtf
MacFormat
Default Folder X Help...
Default Folder X Preferences... ⌘,
✓ Add Comments and Tags ⌥⌘S
Use "MacFormat" as Default Folder
Open "MacFormat" in the Finder ⌥⌘F
Create a New Folder in "MacFormat" ⌘N
Rename "MacFormat" ⌘R
Get Info on "MacFormat" ⌘I
Reveal "MacFormat" in the Finder ⌥⌘R
Move "MacFormat" to the Trash ⌘T
Create .zip Archive of "MacFormat"
Hide extension
New Folder
Cancel
Save
Spotlight Comments

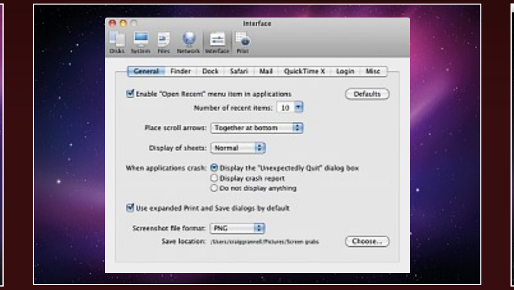
Save As: final list for mac apps.rtf

File Format: Rich Text Format

Default Folder X

(£24.95) St. Clair Software
www.stclairsoft.com/DefaultFolderX/

The best add-ons for the Mac are those that help you out every day by enhancing important components of the OS. *Default Folder X* powers up Open and Save dialogs, potentially saving you time whenever you open or save a document. Its features are many, including quick access to folders and user-defined favourites, the ability to 'snap' a dialog to a *Finder* window in the background via a single click, tagging in Save dialogs, and system-wide access to your Mac's volumes and folders via the menu bar. *Default Folder* might be one of the most expensive add-ons in this feature, but it's also the best and most essential.


Interface
Disks
System
Files
Network
Interface
Pilot
General
Finder
Dock
Safari
Mail
QuickTime X
Login
Misc
Defaults
Choose...

☑ Enable "Open Recent" menu item in applications
Number of recent items: 10
Place scroll arrows: Together at bottom
Display of sheets: Normal
When applications crash: ● Display the "Unexpectedly Quit" dialog box
○ Display crash report
○ Do not display anything
☑ Use expanded Print and Save dialogs by default
Screenshot file format: PNG
Save location: /Users/craiggrannell/Pictures/Screen grabs

Cocktail

(£10) Maintain **cocktail.maintain.se**

Cocktail provides a graphical user interface to access and activate hidden Mac OS X settings, interface tweaks and system maintenance features. The app can amend *Time Machine* settings, clear caches, delete DS Store files from folders, change the screenshot format and save location, amend the appearance and location of the Dock, stop *Mail* displaying attachments, and lots more. The Pilot section enables maintenance tasks to be scheduled. Other apps offer similar features, but few come close to matching *Cocktail's* polish. Note that some *Cocktail* options are for system-level changes, so read the documentation before messing around too much!

LaunchBar

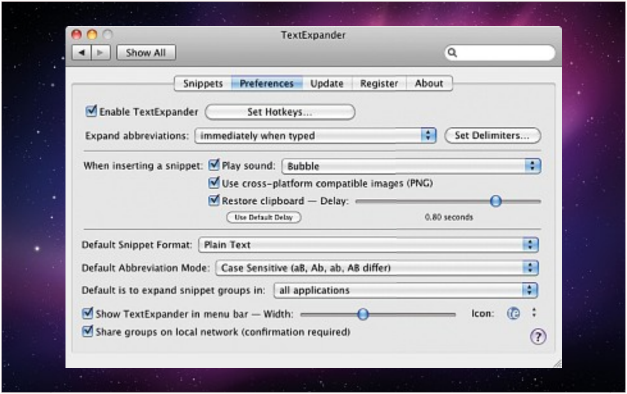
(£21) Objective Development Software
www.obdev.at/products/launchbar/

Although this application was initially a Spotlight-like launcher, *LaunchBar* is now a productivity utility, which provides keyboard-based access to the information within your Mac. By using short abbreviations you can access and manipulate files, search files by kind and filter the results, add *iCal* appointments, find content within *iTunes* and *iPhoto*, manipulate images, perform system actions and plenty more useful tasks. Further boosting this great app's value in the latest version is full Quick Look support as well as an excellent multiple-item clipboard complete with merge capability.

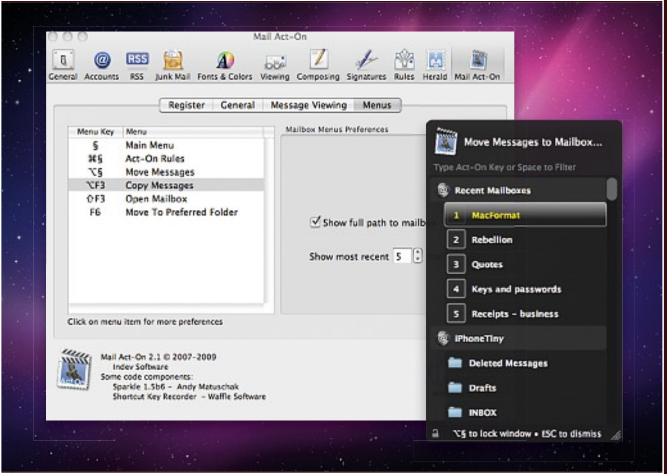
TextExpander

(£20) SmileOnMyMac **www.smileonmymac.com/TextExpander/**

System-wide text substitution finally came to Mac OS X in Snow Leopard, with you being able to define spellings and replacements in the Language & Text System Preferences pane. However, *TextExpander* remains far more powerful, enabling you to create complex boilerplates that include images, and insert them by using a memorable text string. *SmileOnMyMac's* website provides downloadable snippet groups for things like HTML and conversions, and there's an iPhone version of *TextExpander*, which can optionally sync with the desktop app.


TextExpander
Show All
Snippets
Preferences
Update
Register
About
Set Hotkeys...
Set Delimiters...
Use Default Delay
Icon:

☑ Enable TextExpander
Expand abbreviations: immediately when typed
When inserting a snippet: ☑ Play sound: Bubble
☑ Use cross-platform compatible images (PNG)
☑ Restore clipboard — Delay: 0.80 seconds
Default Snippet Format: Plain Text
Default Abbreviation Mode: Case Sensitive (aB, Ab, ab, AB differ)
Default is to expand snippet groups in: all applications
☑ Show TextExpander in menu bar — Width:
☑ Share groups on local network (confirmation required)


Mail Act-On
General
Accounts
RSS
Junk Mail
Fonts & Colors
Viewing
Composing
Signatures
Rules
Herald
Mail Act-On
Register
General
Message Viewing
Menus
Mailbox Menus Preferences
Move Messages to Mailbox...
Type Act-On Key or Space to Filter
Recent Mailboxes
1 MacFormat
2 Rebellion
3 Quotes
4 Keys and passwords
5 Receipts – business
iPhoneTiny
Deleted Messages
Drafts
INBOX
⌥§ to lock window • ESC to dismiss

Menu Key	Menu
§	Main Menu
⌘§	Act-On Rules
⌥§	Move Messages
⌥F3	Copy Messages
⇧F3	Open Mailbox
F6	Move To Preferred Folder

Click on menu item for more preferences

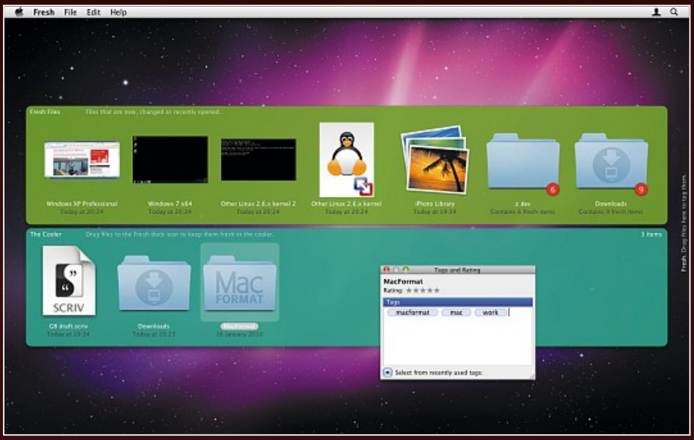
☑ Show full path to mailb
Show most recent 5

Mail Act-On 2.1 © 2007-2009
Indev Software
Some code components:
Sparkle 1.5b6 – Andy Matuschak
Shortcut Key Recorder – Waffle Software

Mail Act-On

(£16) Indev software
www.indev.ca/MailActOn.html

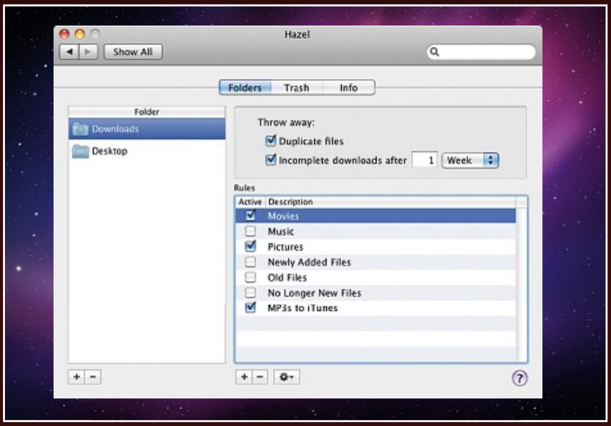
It's easy to find messages in *Mail* using a combination of Spotlight and Smart Mailboxes, but most people also manually file messages into folders. If you get a lot of email, filing is tedious. *Mail Act-On* speeds things up, providing a window that enables you to rapidly move or copy messages. It also enables you to create rules and assign keyboard shortcuts to them – for example, we have ctrl + M set up to move selected messages to a 'MacFormat' folder.


Fresh File Edit Help
Fresh Files
Windows XP Professional
Windows 7 x64
Photo Library
Downloads
The Cooler
SCRIV
Downloads
Mac FORMAT
Tags and Rating
MacFormat
macformat
mac
work

Fresh

(£6) Ironic Software www.ironicsoftware.com/fresh/

Fresh is one of those useful add-ons that duplicates existing Mac functionality, but in a manner that somehow makes it completely indispensable. The application offers users two zones. The first – Fresh – shows recently created or modified files, much like the Recent Items option that you find in the Apple menu. The other zone – The Cooler – is akin to the Dock, providing shortcuts for items. However, *Fresh's* system-wide nature (it's activated via a hotkey), blocking options (locations, extensions, items) and tagging system (for faster searching than Spotlight) makes it well worth the six quid that you have to pay for it.


Hazel
Show All
Folders
Trash
Info
Folder
Downloads
Desktop
+ –

Throw away:
☑ Duplicate files
☑ Incomplete downloads after 1 Week

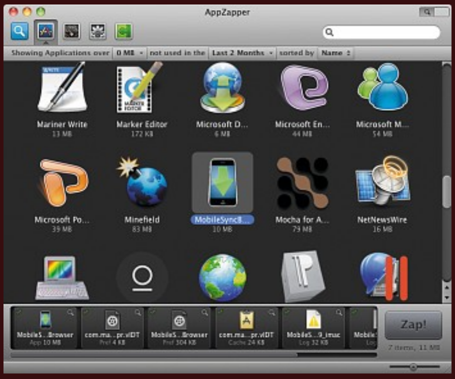
Rules

Active	Description
☑	Movies
☐	Music
☑	Pictures
☐	Newly Added Files
☐	Old Files
☐	No Longer New Files
☑	MP3s to iTunes

Hazel

(£14) Noodlesoft **www.noodlesoft.com/hazel.php**

Everyone deals with countless files these days, so it's inevitable that certain folders on your Mac end up a mess. *Hazel* is a top-notch housekeeper, automatically tidying files according to your wishes. Setup is simple: define folders for *Hazel* to watch and how it should deal with files placed within them. For example, *Hazel* can watch your Desktop and send new MP3s to *iTunes*, and apply a label colour to new PDFs before moving them to your Documents folder.


AppZapper
Showing Applications over 0 MB not used in the Last 2 Months sorted by Name
Mariner Write
Marker Editor
Microsoft D...
Microsoft En...
Microsoft M...
Microsoft Po...
Minefield
MobileSyncB...
Mocha for A...
NetNewsWire
Zap!

AppZapper

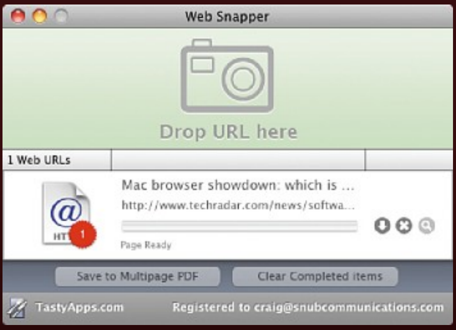
(£8) Austin Sarner and Brian Ball / **www.appzapper.com**

Mac apps are mostly well behaved, rarely scattering files about your system. Therefore, dragging an app to the Trash is enough to uninstall it. However, this leaves behind preferences and app support files – something *AppZapper* deals with. Drag an app to *AppZapper* and you'll see what'll be deleted. Click Zap! and the files are trashed. There's also a search feature that finds apps you've not used in months, in case you want rid of them.

Web Snapper

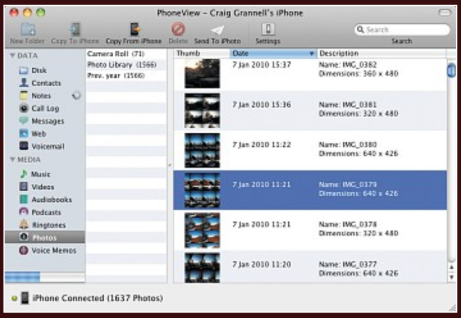
(£9) Tasty Apps **www.tastyapps.com**

Storing web pages offline isn't entirely straightforward. Screengrabs aren't interactive, PDFs from *Safari* lack a site's design, and web archives must be opened in a browser and often don't fully work. *Web Snapper* eliminates these problems, saving web pages as PDFs that retain the site's design and links. Options exist to save to other formats (handy for web designers wanting full-height grabs of a design) and for each PDF to be saved as a single long document or as multiple pages.


Web Snapper
Drop URL here
1 Web URLs
Save to Multipage PDF
Clear Completed Items
TastyApps.com

Mac browser showdown: which is ...
http://www.techradar.com/news/softwa...
Page Ready

Registered to craig@snubcommunications.com


PhoneView – Craig Grannell's iPhone
New Folder
Copy To iPhone
Copy From iPhone
Delete
Send To iPhoto
Settings
Search
DATA
Disk
Contacts
Notes
Call Log
Messages
Web
Voicemail
MEDIA
Music
Videos
Audiobooks
Podcasts
Ringtones
Photos
Voice Memos
Camera Roll (71)
Photo Library (1566)
Prev. year (1566)
Thumb
Date
Description
iPhone Connected (1637 Photos)

Date	Description
7 Jan 2010 15:37	Name: IMG_0382 Dimensions: 360 x 480
7 Jan 2010 15:36	Name: IMG_0381 Dimensions: 320 x 480
7 Jan 2010 11:22	Name: IMG_0380 Dimensions: 640 x 426
7 Jan 2010 11:21	Name: IMG_0379 Dimensions: 640 x 426
7 Jan 2010 11:21	Name: IMG_0378 Dimensions: 320 x 480
7 Jan 2010 11:20	Name: IMG_0377 Dimensions: 640 x 426

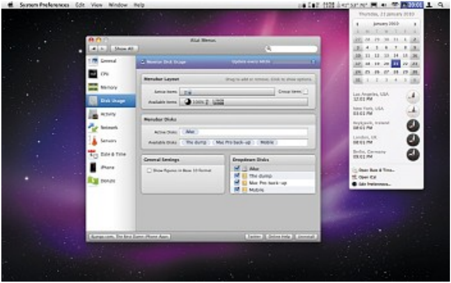
PhoneView

(£13) Ecamm Network **www.ecamm.com/mac/phoneview/**

PhoneView bills itself as 'the desktop companion for iPhone and iPod touch', but we think of it more like a safety net for your device. The application enables you to access content on your device and copy to and from it. Also, if *iPhoto* has a hissy fit, you can retrieve your photos; and although *Mail* now syncs with Notes, *PhoneView* enables you to drag and drop PDFs and *Word* documents for reading on the go. You can even save SMS messages and your call log if you wanted to.

»

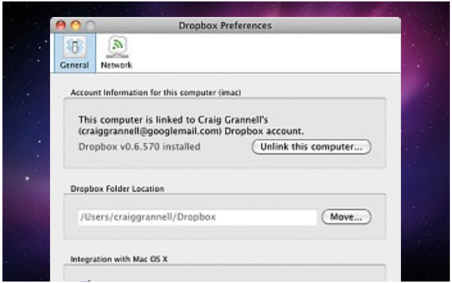
The top ten best



iStat Menus

iSlayer **www.islayer.com/apps/istatmenus/**

Menu extras provide useful information in your menu bar and system monitoring utility *iStat Menus* is the daddy of all menu extras. Use it to add modules to your menu bar, enabling you to check CPU resources, disk usage, network activity, and temperatures inside your Mac. Clicking a menu provides access to more info and a link to relevant preferences. Even if you want monitoring, *iStat Menus* is great for its menu-bar clock, which includes a calendar and world clock in its drop-down menu.



Dropbox Preferences

Account Information for this computer (imac)

This computer is linked to Craig Grannell's (craiggrannell@googlemail.com) Dropbox account.

Dropbox v0.6.570 installed

Dropbox Folder Location

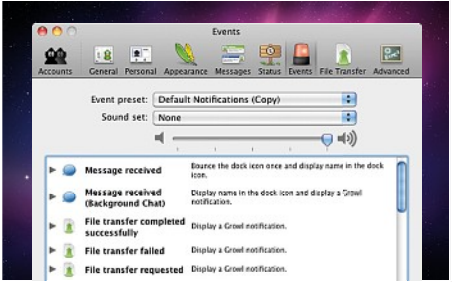
/Users/craiggrannell/Dropbox

Integration with Mac OS X

Dropbox/SugarSync

Dropbox/Sharpcast **www.dropbox.com and www.sugarsync.com**

Dropbox and *SugarSync* both fundamentally offer the same thing: a means of backing-up to the 'cloud'. Data can automatically be synchronised across multiple devices, and accessed via each service's free iPhone app. *SugarSync* limits you to two computers but is flexible regarding what you sync; *Dropbox* syncs unlimited devices, but requires items to be placed within a *Dropbox* folder. Both offer free 2GB plans and play nice with Macs.



Events

Event preset: Default Notifications (Copy)
Sound set: None

Message received	Bounce the dock icon once and display name in the dock icon.
Message received (Background Chat)	Display name in the dock icon and display a Growl notification.
File transfer completed successfully	Display a Growl notification.
File transfer failed	Display a Growl notification.
File transfer requested	Display a Growl notification.

Adium

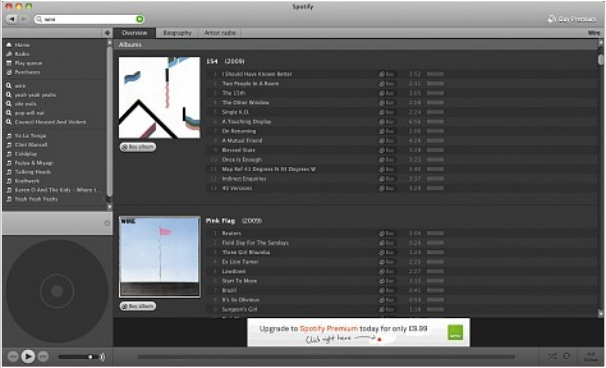
Evan Schoenberg **adium.im**

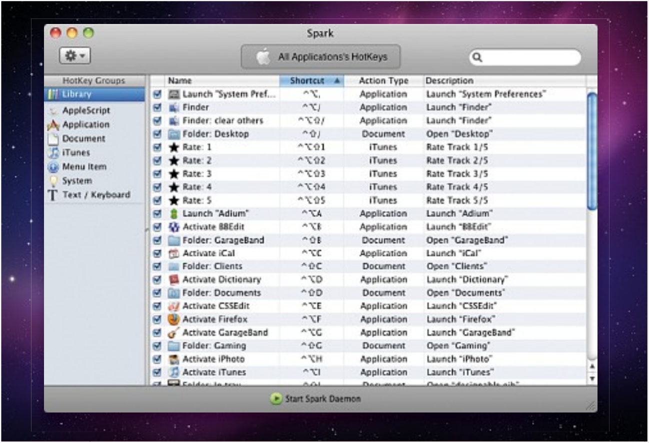
One of the drawbacks of instant messaging is that your friends are likely to use a number of different services. If you're a switcher, MSN and Yahoo! may have been your previous IMs of choice. Unlike Apple's AIM-oriented *iChat*, *Adium* works with almost every popular IM service (including Facebook), enabling you to do all your chatting within a single app. *Adium* doesn't do video, but it's perfect for text, and the hugely configurable interface offers multiple themes and alert settings.

Spotify

Spotify Ltd **www.spotify.com/en/**

Spotify is a fantastic service that provides ad-supported streaming of thousands of albums. The free version is often 'locked' unless you get an invite, but keep an eye on the site for when this restriction is lifted, grab yourself an account, download Spotify, and enjoy your choice of free – and legal – music all day long.





Spark

Name	Shortcut	Action Type	Description
Launch "System Pref...	^⌥,	Application	Launch "System Preferences"
Finder	^⌥/	Application	Launch "Finder"
Finder: clear others	^⌥⇧/	Application	Launch "Finder"
Folder: Desktop	^⇧/	Document	Open "Desktop"
Rate: 1	^⌥⇧1	iTunes	Rate Track 1/5
Rate: 2	^⌥⇧2	iTunes	Rate Track 2/5
Rate: 3	^⌥⇧3	iTunes	Rate Track 3/5
Rate: 4	^⌥⇧4	iTunes	Rate Track 4/5
Rate: 5	^⌥⇧5	iTunes	Rate Track 5/5
Launch "Adium"	^⌥A	Application	Launch "Adium"
Activate BBEdit	^⌥B	Application	Launch "BBEdit"
Folder: GarageBand	^⇧B	Document	Open "GarageBand"
Activate iCal	^⌥C	Application	Launch "iCal"
Folder: Clients	^⇧C	Document	Open "Clients"
Activate Dictionary	^⌥D	Application	Launch "Dictionary"
Folder: Documents	^⇧D	Document	Open "Documents"
Activate CSSEdit	^⌥E	Application	Launch "CSSEdit"
Activate Firefox	^⌥F	Application	Launch "Firefox"
Activate GarageBand	^⌥G	Application	Launch "GarageBand"
Folder: Gaming	^⇧G	Document	Open "Gaming"
Activate iPhoto	^⌥H	Application	Launch "iPhoto"
Activate iTunes	^⌥I	Application	Launch "iTunes"

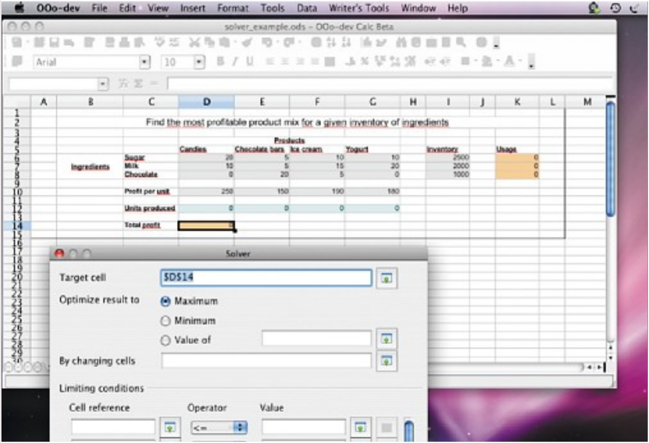
Spark

Shadow Lab **www.shadowlab.org/Software/spark.php**

Spark is an add-on for keyboard junkies, enabling you to create hotkeys to launch apps and docs, control *iTunes*, and more. Snow Leopard users might argue that Services offers similar functions, but *Spark* is better for setting up and managing shortcuts. It also fine-tunes behaviours for launching and activation.

free apps

A lack of funds is no barrier to Mac-based goodness, as these apps prove…

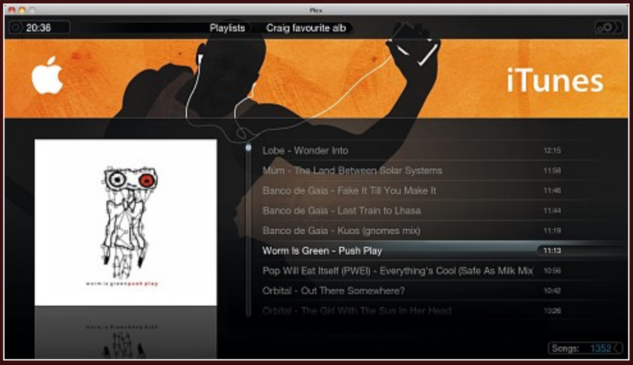

OOo-dev File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Writer's Tools Window Help
solver_example.ods – OOo-dev Calc Beta
Find the most profitable product mix for a given inventory of ingredients
Solver

Target cell D14
Optimize result to ● Maximum ○ Minimum ○ Value of
By changing cells
Limiting conditions
Cell reference Operator <= Value

OpenOffice.org

Sun Microsystems **www.openoffice.org**

Microsoft Office is now under serious threat from free alternatives. Sun's *OpenOffice.org* is one of the better examples, and, unlike some of its rivals, the Mac version is a native app. Sure, it's not as polished as *iWork*, and its compatibility with *Microsoft Office* isn't perfect, but if you want to read and edit the odd *Word* document, or maintain a couple of *Excel* spreadsheets, it's perfect.


20:36
Playlists
Craig favourite alb
iTunes

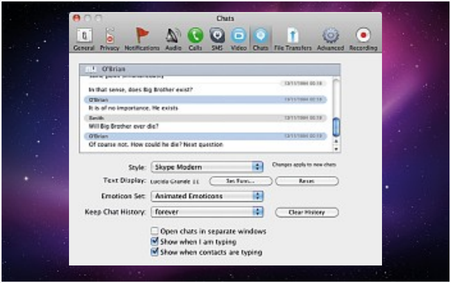
Lobe - Wonder Into	12:15
Mum - The Land Between Solar Systems	11:58
Banco de Gaia - Fake It Till You Make It	11:46
Banco de Gaia - Last Train to Lhasa	11:44
Banco de Gaia - Kuos (gnomes mix)	11:19
Worm Is Green - Push Play	11:13
Pop Will Eat Itself (PWEI) - Everything's Cool (Safe As Milk Mix	10:56
Orbital - Out There Somewhere?	10:42
Orbital - The Girl With The Sun In Her Head	10:26

Songs: 1352

Plex

Plex **www.plexapp.com**

Apple TV is limited, as is *Front Row*, and those wanting to turn the likes of a Mac mini into a decent media centre for hooking up to a television must look elsewhere. *Plex* plays a huge range of video, audio and photo formats, has great library features, and wraps everything up in a sleek, contemporary interface.


Chats
General Privacy Notifications Audio Calls SMS Video Chats File Transfers Advanced Recording

Style: Skype Modern
Emoticon Set: Animated Emoticons
Keep Chat History: forever
☐ Open chats in separate windows
☑ Show when I am typing
☑ Show when contacts are typing

Skype

Skype **www.skype.com**

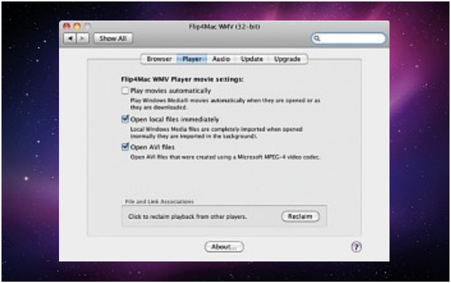
Assuming you've got a half-decent broadband connection, *Skype* is a no-brainer download. The service enables you to make Skype-to-Skype calls online – get a friend to download and install *Skype* and you can chat all day long, for free. You can also call landlines and mobiles at low rates. The app also includes video support, configurable status settings, and an instant messaging app, for those times when you want to type rather than talk.

Mac FORMAT
From the team
Latest issue
Flash

ClickToFlash

ClickToFlash Developers
rentzsch.github.com/clicktoflash/

So you're online, surfing the web using your Mac laptop. Suddenly, your previously near-silent computer is doing a good impersonation of an aircraft taking off. You've hit a website with *Flash* and the fans have kicked in! Stop the horror by installing *ClickToFlash*, which by default disables *Flash* in *Safari*, but enables you to access *Flash* content on a case-by-case basis, or 'whitelist' sites via a settings window.

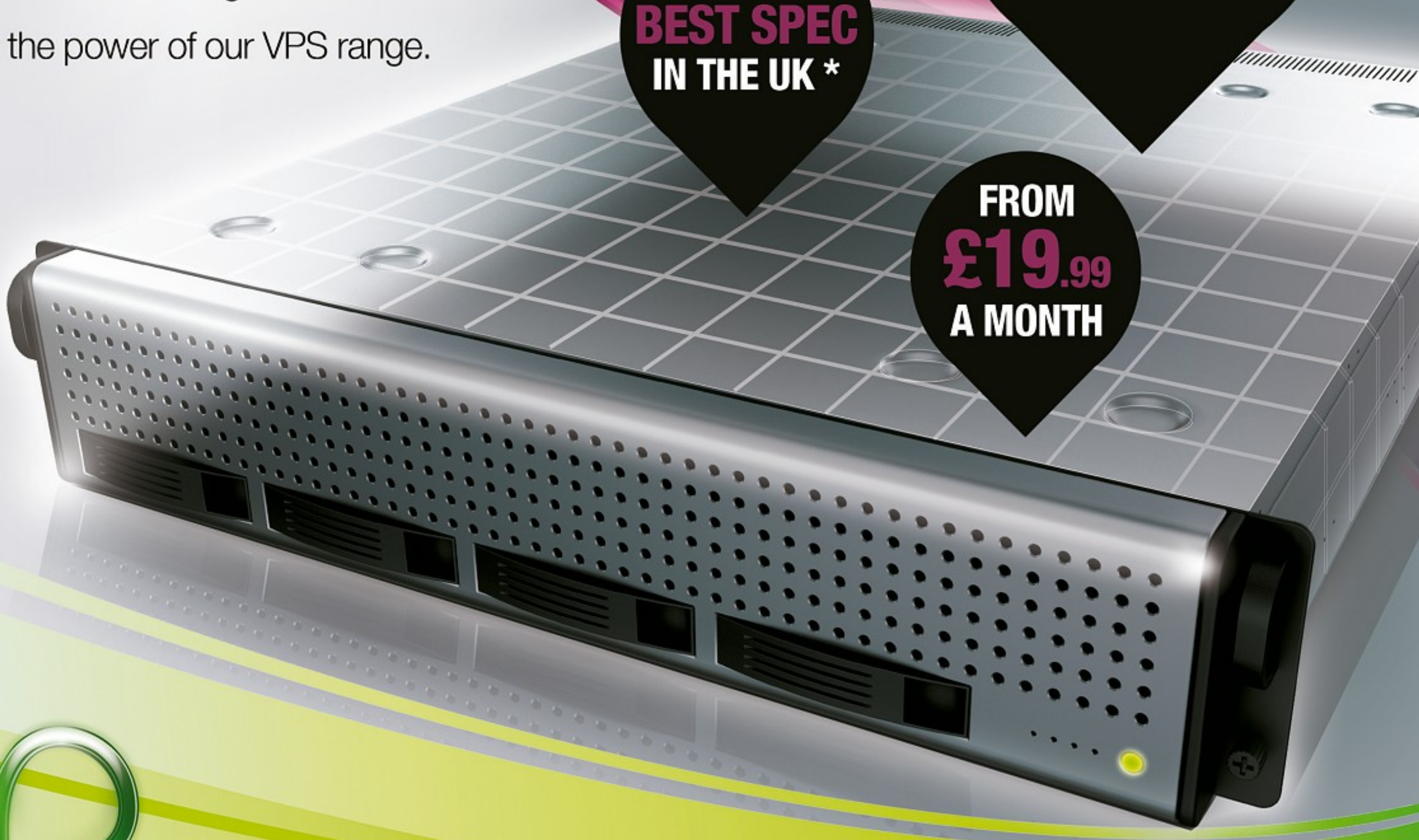

Flip4Mac WMV (32-bit)
Show All
Browser Player Audio Update Upgrade
Reclaim
About…

Flip4Mac WMV Player movie settings:
☐ Play movies automatically
☑ Open local files immediately
☑ Open AVI files

Flip4Mac/Perian

Telestream/Perian Project
www.telestream.net and www.perian.org

A frustrating thing about the early days of the internet was lock-outs – sites would be 'compatible' only with one browser. Today, this is rare, but online video remains reliant on proprietary technology. *Flip4Mac* welds components to *QuickTime*, so it can play Windows Media video. *Perian* describes itself as the 'swiss-army knife for QuickTime', adding support for AVI, DIVX, FLV and other formats.



30 DAY NO RISK
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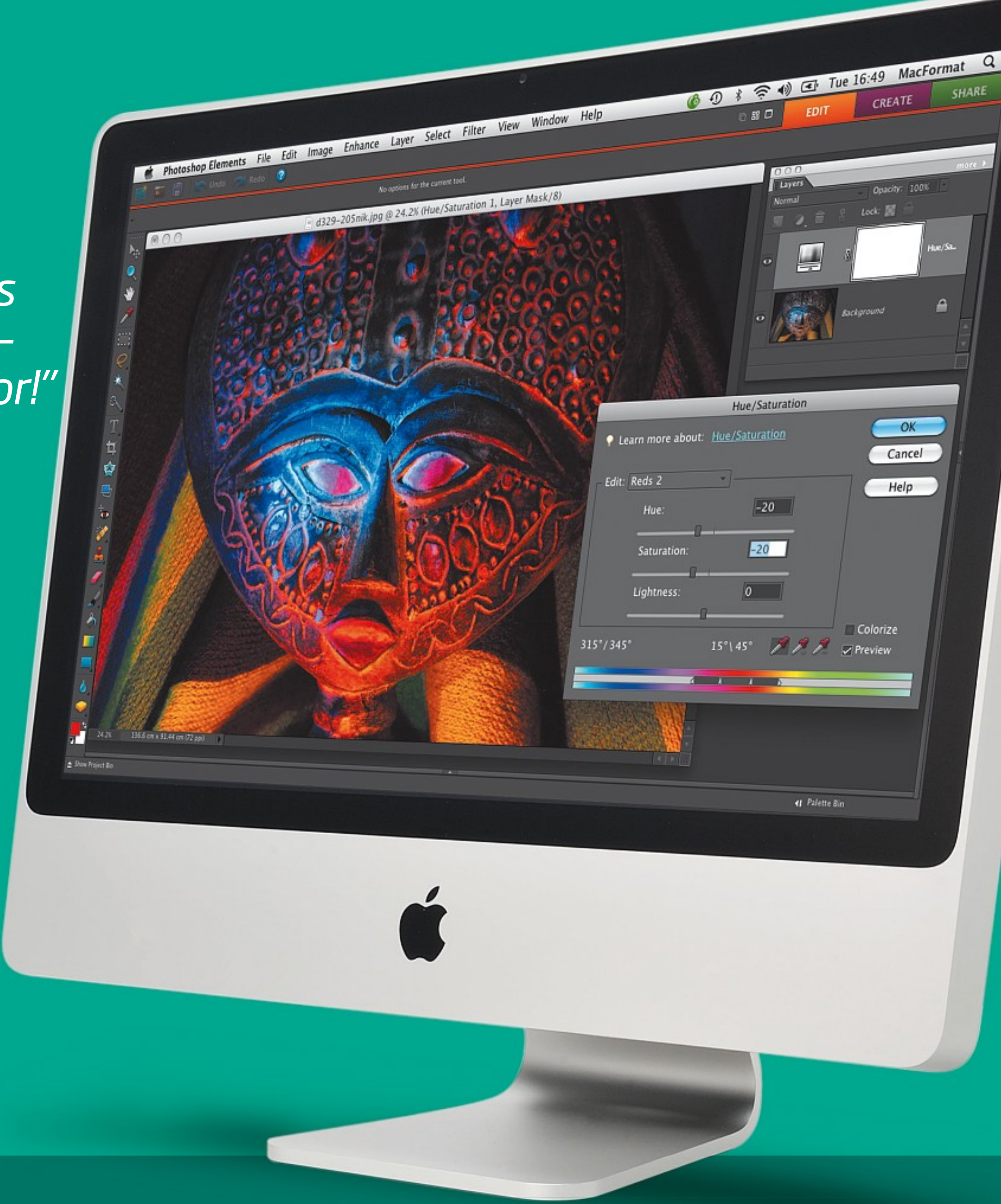
* As of Decemeber 2009


Photoshop Elements File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
Tue 16:49 MacFormat
EDIT CREATE SHARE
d329-205nik.jpg @ 24.2% (Hue/Saturation 1, Layer Mask/8)
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Hue/Sa...
Background
Hue/Saturation
Learn more about: Hue/Saturation
OK
Cancel
Help
Edit: Reds 2
Hue: -20
Saturation: -20
Lightness: 0
Colorize
☑ Preview
315°/345°
15°\45°
Palette Bin

"Master Photoshop's saturation controls – live life in Technicolor!"

APPLY PER-COLOUR OR GLOBAL BOOSTS P48

In this issue...

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Use iPhoto's Effects 50
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Set up your own blog 58

SYSTEM

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Add a Mail notifier 64
Use Universal Access 67

How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

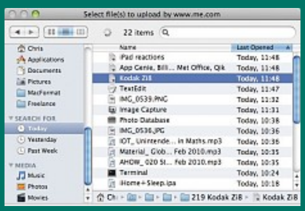
Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

Back in the day, no matter how careful you were when composing and exposing your shot with your film camera, the actual processing was usually done by a lab, and you had little control of it. Happily, these days, digital photography puts *you* back in control – and we're here to help.

Even if you don't know f-stops from focal lengths, our tutorial on page 50 detailing *iPhoto*'s built-in effects will help you transform mediocre snaps into miniature works of art. And if you're a little more confident, our *Photoshop Elements* tutorial on page 48, which shows you how to adjust the saturation of individual colours or an entire photo, is required reading.

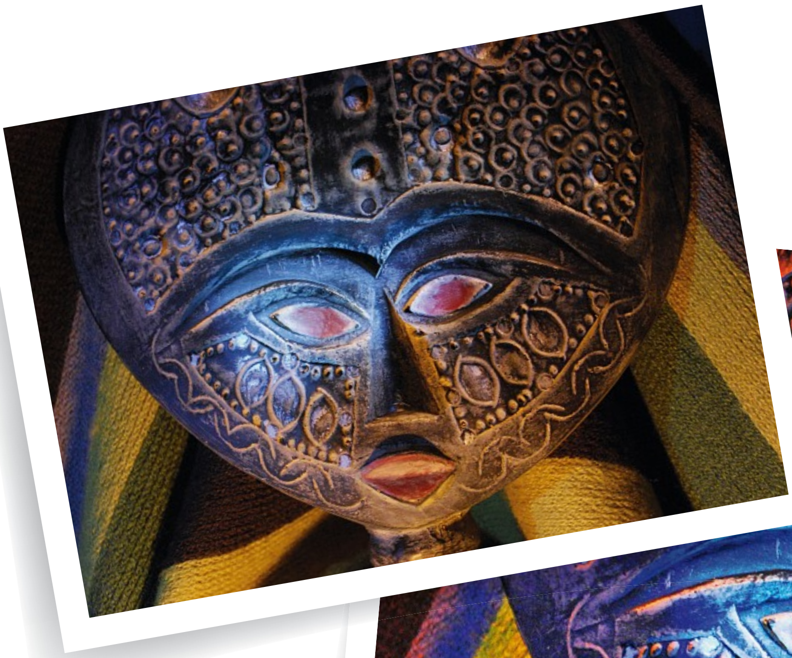
If, however, you bemoan the tactility of old chemical photography, you'll want to check out Craig's romp through *PhotoStyler* on page 52, where you'll learn how to add lovely analogue effects to your photos.

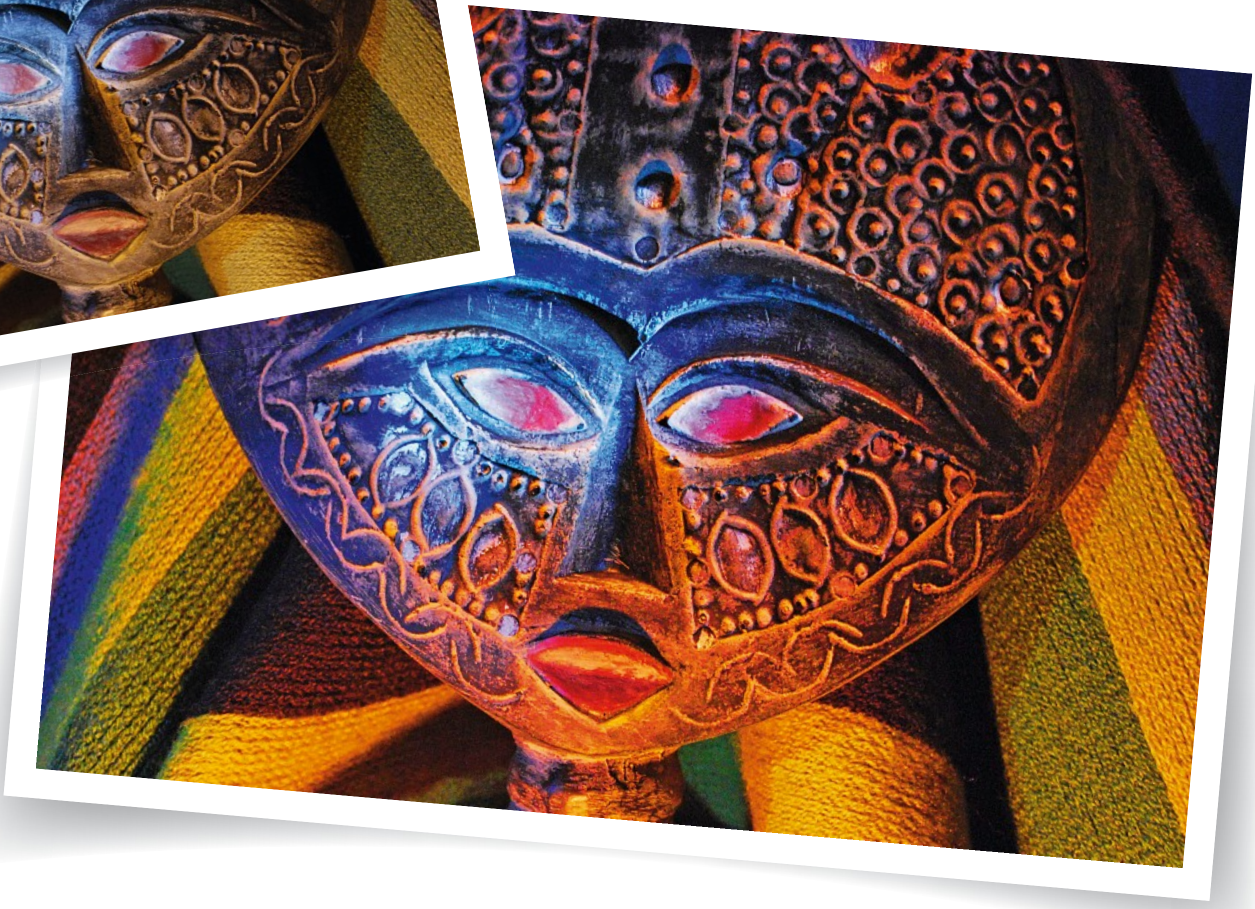
And there is, of course, much more besides. Try some tech wisdom from Christopher Brennan and Ian Tromp, or the cracking guide from Dave Stevenson on using WordPress to set up a rich, expandable blog for you or your business.


Select file(s) to upload by www.me.com
22 items
Name
Last Opened
SEARCH FOR
Today
MEDIA

>> DID YOU KNOW?

If, like us, you use a web interface to upload files to a server, remember the **Today** sidebar item that lets you quickly get to files you've just been working on.





BEFORE: Despite good lighting, the mask's colours have come out looking dull.

AFTER: Selective tweaks in Photoshop have given the image a bright, radiant look.

Boost colours effectively

Here's a way of increasing saturation both overall and for individual colours

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Advanced

TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Photoshop CS or Elements

You don't always get the depth of colour you're expecting from digital cameras. That's what's happened with this photograph of a wooden mask. The lighting was set up to produce a moody, dramatic look, but the colours just didn't come out strongly enough.

Increasing the intensity of colours isn't always straightforward. The simplest method, of course, is to boost the Saturation value in the Hue/Saturation dialog, but this quickly leads to colour clipping, where subtle textures become solid blocks of intense colour. Another method is to use *Photoshop*'s new Vibrance tool, which increases saturation according to how much there is in the first place. Less saturated areas get a bigger boost, which cuts colour clipping, but its drawback is that it can distort the relationships between colours.

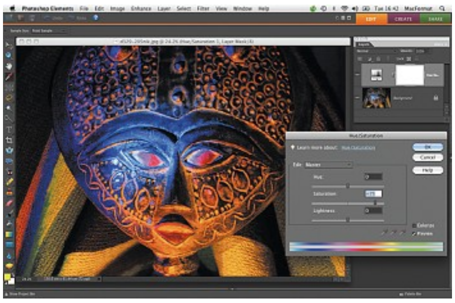
What's needed, then, is a tool that can increase the saturation selectively. In fact, we've already mentioned it. The Hue/Saturation dialog has everything we need, but it means taking a hands-on approach and using a feature that often goes unnoticed – its ability to split the colour spectrum into individual segments for targeted adjustments.

> *"Make most of the colour adjustments you need using a single Hue/Saturation adjustment layer"*

In fact, you can make most of the manual colour adjustments you need to using a single Hue/Saturation adjustment layer, and that's not all. With the same adjustment layer and some creative use of blend modes, you can engineer a contrast boost to enhance colours further.

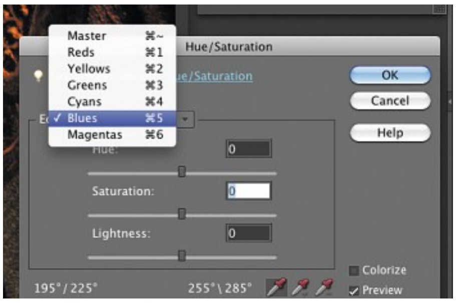
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Give your photo vibrant colours



01 Boost the saturation

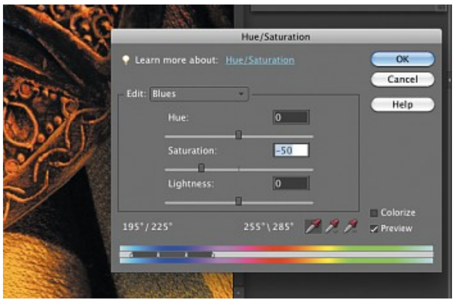
We'll start with a straightforward saturation increase using a **Hue/Saturation** adjustment layer. Normally, you'd stop when colours start to clip. This time, we're pushing the slider to the point where the image has the kind of saturation we're looking for.



Hue: 0
Saturation: 0
Lightness: 0
195°/225° 255°\285°

02 Select the clipped colours

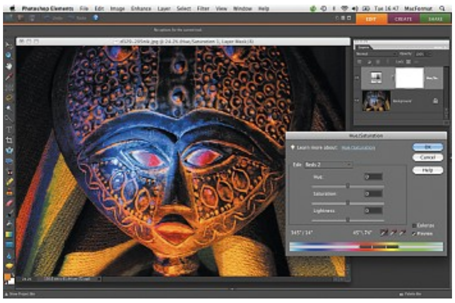
Our approach is not to avoid colour clipping, but to repair it. We can do this with the **Hue/Saturation** dialog still open. The main problem is the blue tones, which have become too intense. To adjust these on their own, we click the **Edit** drop-down and pick **Blues**.



Edit: Blues
Hue: 0
Saturation: -50
Lightness: 0
195°/225° 255°\285°

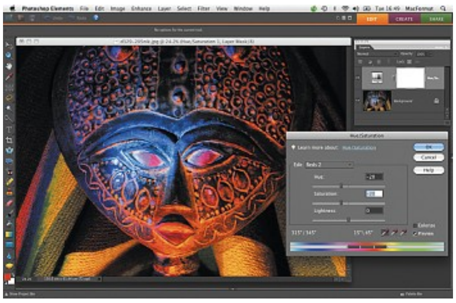
03 Reduce the saturation

With the **Blues** selected, we can now reduce the saturation to **-50**. This subdues the blue tones, but the rest of the colours are unaffected. In effect, what we're doing is subtracting the blues from the overall saturation increase we applied in Step 1.



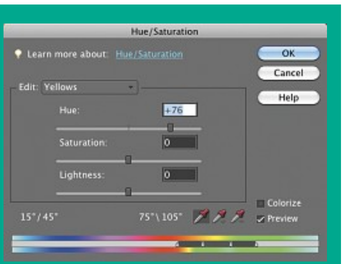
04 Select with eyedropper

We can select and adjust other colours and be more precise than picking from the **Edit** drop-down. If you select the nearest colour (**Reds**, in this case) and click on a relevant part of the image with the eyedropper, *Photoshop* will adjust the colour selection to match.



05 Hue and saturation

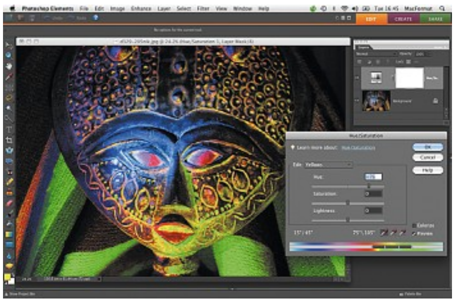
In the previous step, we used the eyedropper on the yellow/orange tones at the bottom of the mask, which were unattractive. Shifting the **Hue** slider to the left turns these tones a deep red, while a slight reduction in **Saturation** keeps intensity under control.



Edit: Yellows
Hue: +76
Saturation: 0
Lightness: 0
15°/45° 75°\105°

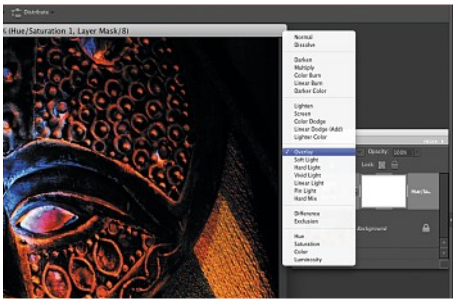
QUICK TIP

When you select a range in the **Hue/Saturation** dialog, you'll see four moveable markers on the colour bar. The inner ones show the colours to be changed and the outer ones the range over which adjustments will be blended into the rest.



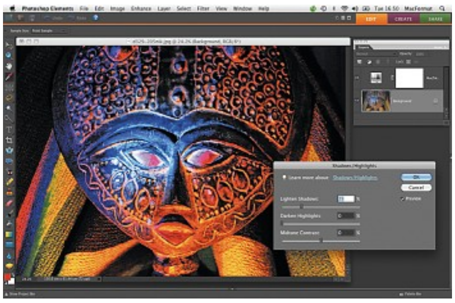
06 Bigger hue adjustments

You can engineer bigger colour shifts. Here, we've selected **Yellows** from the **Edit** drop-down and pushed the **Hue** slider way over to the right. The danger with big hue shifts is that you can get abrupt colour changes from one area to another, almost pixel by pixel.



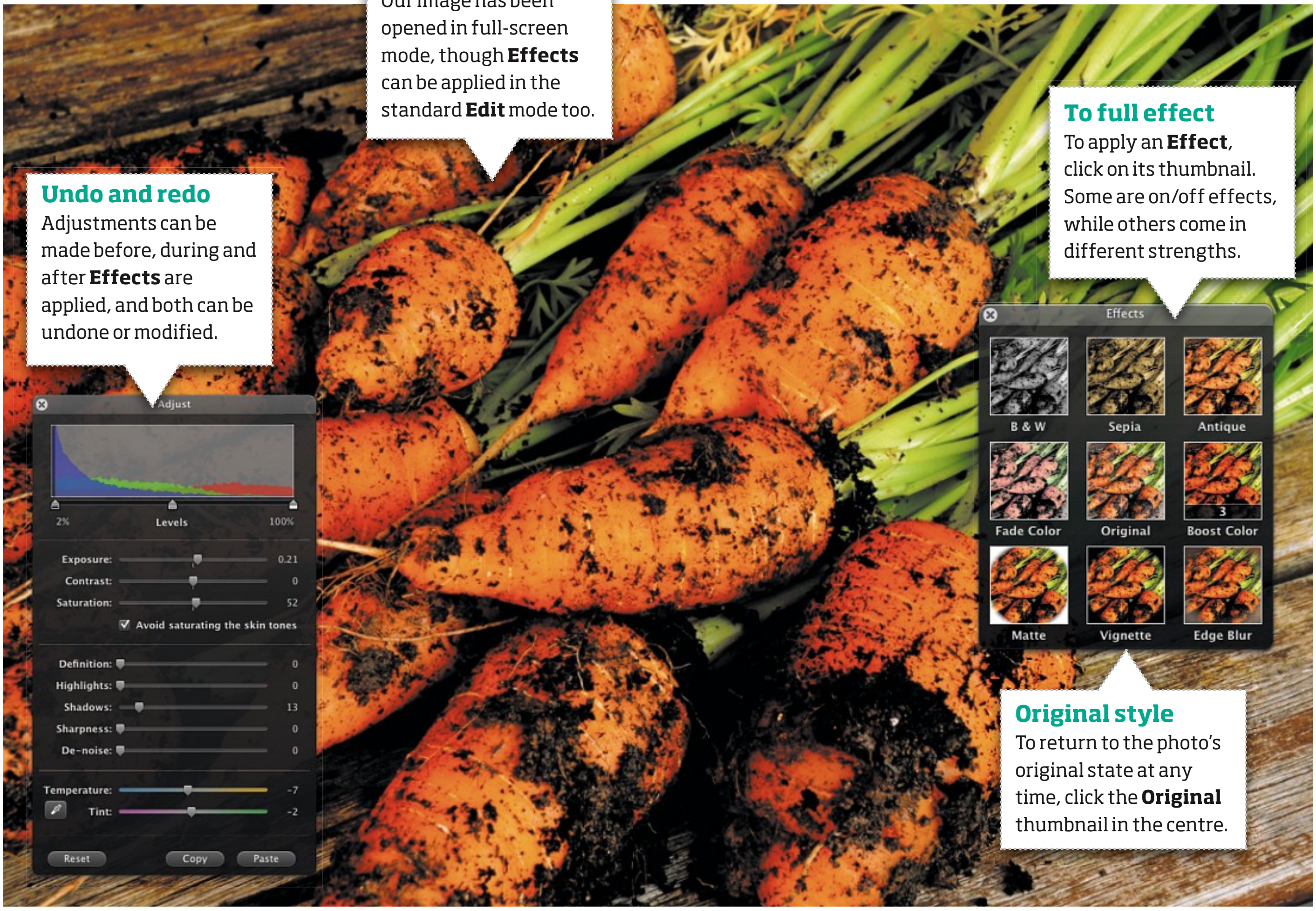
07 Change the blend mode

If the colours still don't have the intensity you're looking for, you can increase contrast. We don't need to add more adjustment layers for this. Simply change the adjustment layer's **blend mode** to **Overlay**. The drawback is that shadow and highlight detail may be lost.



08 Shadows/Highlights

We can sort this out by going back to our original image layer (create a duplicate if you don't want to work on the original) and using the **Shadows/Highlights** dialog to lighten the shadows. This sorts out the contrast problem without affecting colour intensity. ●



Adjust

2% Levels 100%

Exposure: 0.21
Contrast: 0
Saturation: 52
☑ Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition: 0
Highlights: 0
Shadows: 13
Sharpness: 0
De-noise: 0
Temperature: -7
Tint: -2

Reset Copy Paste

View mode
Our image has been opened in full-screen mode, though **Effects** can be applied in the standard **Edit** mode too.

Undo and redo
Adjustments can be made before, during and after **Effects** are applied, and both can be undone or modified.

To full effect
To apply an **Effect**, click on its thumbnail. Some are on/off effects, while others come in different strengths.

Original style
To return to the photo's original state at any time, click the **Original** thumbnail in the centre.

Use iPhoto's Effects

Get familiar with the Effects pane to further your image enhancements

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

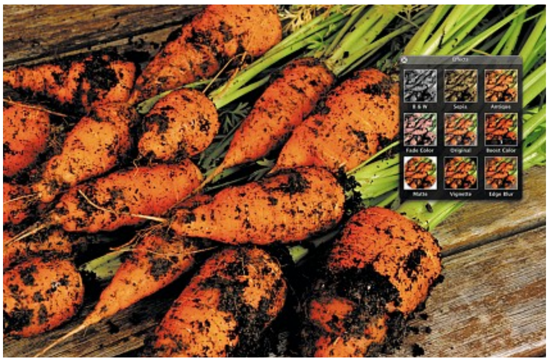
WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iPhoto '09 (£71, part of iLife '09 http://store.apple.com/uk)

The *iPhoto* application comes with a selection of effects. At first glance these may appear to be the same as effects filters supplied with other programs, but there's more to them than that.

In *Photoshop* or *Elements*, for example you might be used to making image adjustments first and then apply a filter at the end. The filter may have sliders you can tweak before you apply it, but it's your last chance to change anything. After that, the only way to alter it is to undo the filter and start again.

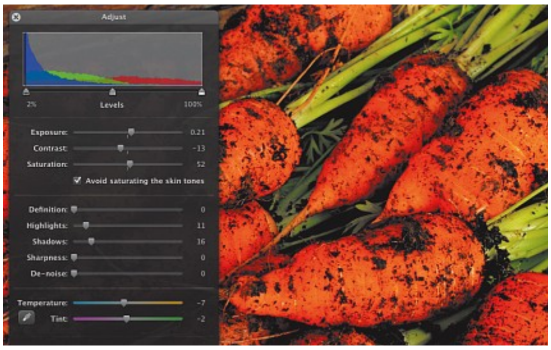
But *iPhoto* is different, partly because its effects are more like pre-packaged adjustments, and partly because they remain 'live' all through the editing process. This means that it's often useful to reverse the normal editing process and start with an effect you like and then use the Adjust palette to fine-tune the result. *iPhoto '09* works non-destructively too, so that the changes you've made are stored with the image rather than being applied to it – meaning you can open it up again at any time and rejig the settings you chose originally.

Rod Lawton



01 Boost your image's colour

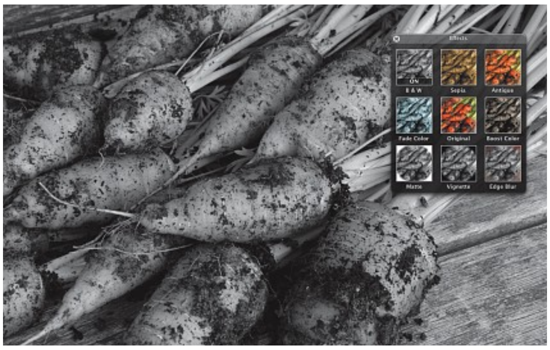
Our original photo lacked colour intensity, and *iPhoto's* Boost Color effect is ideal for fixing this because it does more than just increase the saturation. It also increases the contrast and applies a subtle warm tone. It comes in a series of strengths, which can be increased or decreased easily to suit.


Adjust
Levels
2%
100%

Exposure: 0.21
Contrast: -13
Saturation: 52
☑ Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition: 0
Highlights: 11
Shadows: 16
Sharpness: 0
De-noise: 0
Temperature: -7
Tint: -2

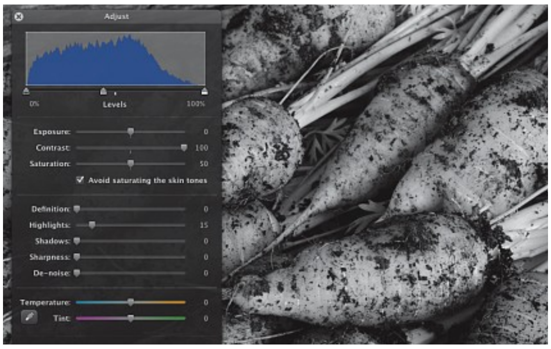
02 Adjusting the result

The **Boost Color Effect** works well, but the contrast increase can lead to clipping in the shadows and highlights. Fix this by using the **Adjust** palette to make changes, or, move the mouse pointer to the bottom of the screen to display the toolbar, and click the **Enhance** button. You could also reduce the strength of the effect.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

03 Black and white

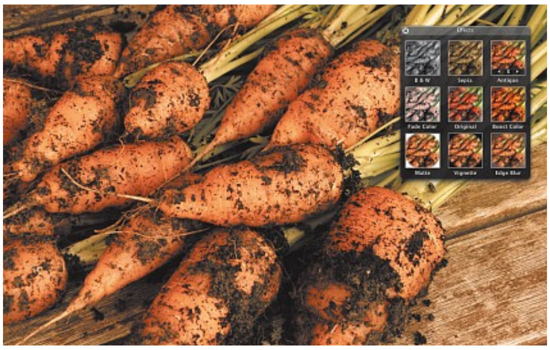
iPhoto's **B & W** effect can be applied at the start and you can make further enhancements afterwards. The effect can be switched on or off by clicking the thumbnail. The same applies to the **Sepia** effect. You can only have one of these activated at any one time – these are the only two effects that behave in this way.


Adjust
Levels
0%
100%

Exposure: 0
Contrast: 100
Saturation: 50
☑ Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition: 0
Highlights: 15
Shadows: 0
Sharpness: 0
De-noise: 0
Temperature: 0
Tint: 0

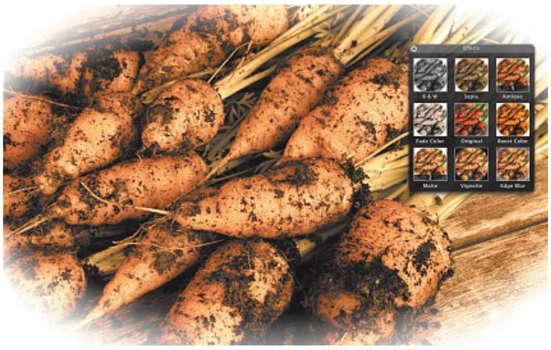
04 Increased contrast

Like most black-and-white conversions of a colour original, our photo lacks contrast. We can fix that with the **Adjust** palette. We've also pushed the **Contrast** slider to maximum, then moved the midtone slider under the **Histogram** to the left, and recovered some blown highlights using the **Highlights** slider.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

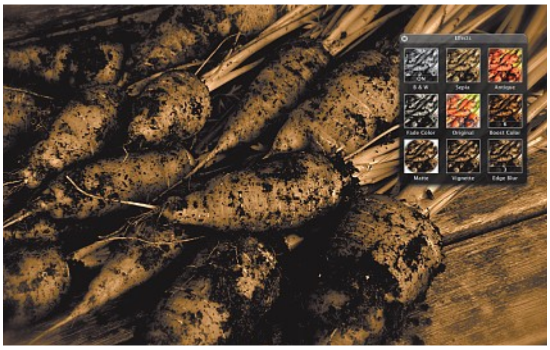
05 Antique effect

What's interesting about *iPhoto's* effects is that they can be combined. If you want to go for a nostalgic look with an old, faded print effect, the **Antique** effect is the obvious place to start. This adds a warm tone to the image at the same time as fading the colours. A strength of 3 gives just about the right degree of fading here.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

06 Adding a matte

Now we can apply the **Matte** effect to fade out the corners to white. Again, we can adjust the strength. Admittedly, the **Matte** effect isn't terribly subtle, and you can't control the smoothness of the fade-out, for example. But then *iPhoto* isn't trying to be *Photoshop*, after all, and it does do a pretty good job with the minimum of effort.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

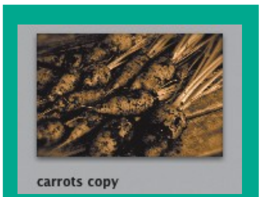
07 The 'lith' look

This simulation of the darkroom technique of 'lith' printing uses three effects. It starts with the **B & W** effect, to which we've added the **Boost Color** effect. The tint and contrast increase provides the look we're after. We've finished it with an **Edge Blur**. This gives the appearance of a photo taken with an antique lens/camera. ●

EXPERT TIP

Highlights and shadows

The **Highlights** and **Shadows** sliders in *iPhoto 09's* **Adjust** panel work just like the **Shadows/ Highlights** tool in *Photoshop* and *Elements*. *iPhoto* uses a mask to select the highlight or shadow areas, and the edges of the mask are blurred so that the adjustment blends in subtly. This is very useful when you're working in the **Adjust** panel because when you increase the **Contrast** or **Exposure** values you often end up clipping the shadows or the highlights – and you can then recover these using the **Highlights** and **Shadows** sliders. This does not appear to work in the same way when you use effects. If an effect like **Boost Color** clips the shadows, for example, then the **Shadows** slider in the **Adjust** panel won't recover the lost detail, it will only lighten what shadow details have been left.


carrots copy

»QUICK TIP

Work on copies of your photos rather than the originals – to do this, select the photo and use the ⌘-D shortcut. This way, you can compare before-and-after photos, and produce any number of different versions from the same original.

Add film effects to your snaps

Use PhotoStyler to add textures and other effects to your images

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
PhotoStyler 2.5, Mac OS X 10.5 or later, a photo

>> ON THE DISC

A demo of *PhotoStyler* is on your disc

Over the past 10 years or so, photography has evolved at an astonishing rate. Today, film is almost obsolete, only used in specialist circles, and even mobile phones offer cameras akin to standalone digital cameras from five years ago. Meanwhile, today's digital cameras, even in the consumer space, provide a level of control and quality few would have dared dream of at the turn of the century.

But in the rush towards control and digital technology, something has been lost. There was a beautiful tactile quality to film-based photography and a real sense of excitement - not knowing exactly how an image was going to turn out.

Furthermore, each type of camera stamped its own personality on your photos, and the stock and means of processing you chose could radically affect the outcome. A good example of this is cross-processing (such as processing a slide film as a standard colour film), which tends to produce interesting and vibrant colours.

PhotoStyler is an application that provides a digital doorway into photography's film-based past. Instead of merely including tools for auto-correcting slightly iffy colour, removing red-eye or getting rid of dust, it concentrates on fun and creativity. The app includes plenty of built-in vintage styles, which can be tweaked, or you can drag and drop filters to create your own filter chains that can be saved as presets.

> *"There was a beautiful tactile quality to film-based photography, and a real sense of excitement"*

There are some things to be mindful of when working with *PhotoStyler*, however. The interface is perhaps best described as quirky and isn't terribly intuitive at first, hence the walkthrough on the following page, which should get you up and running. Also, many of the effects are complex, so rendering isn't always in real time – it may take your Mac a second or two to catch up when parameters are altered. When altering a parameter, it's therefore best to change a numerical value, press ⇥ and wait until the work area updates before continuing.

The demo version of *PhotoStyler* is fully-featured, including all presets and parameter editing, but it watermarks rendered images. If you enjoy using the application, it can be registered for $30 (about £20) via http://photostyler.corner-a.com.

Craig Grannell

>> HOW TO / Find your way around PhotoStyler

The toolbar

Icons to **Load image**, **Render image to file**, **Save chain as preset template** and **Zoom**.

Presets panel

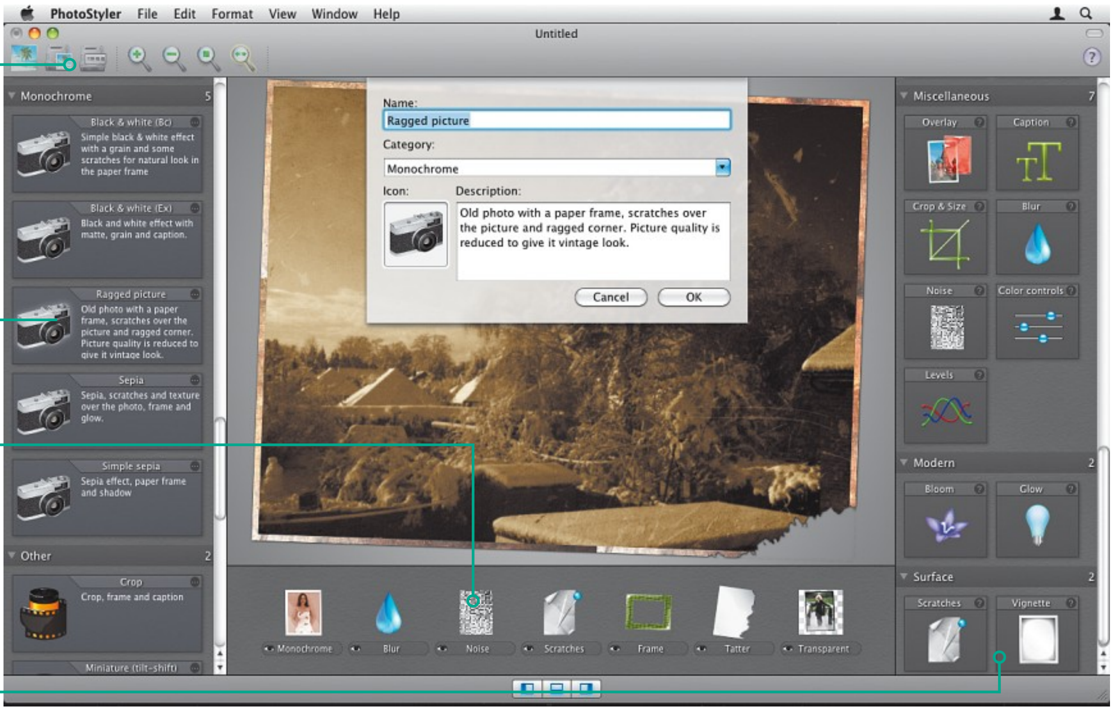
This panel houses presets, both built-in and user-defined.

Filters chain

Drag filters to remove and rearrange and use the **eye** to hide them.

Filters browser

This houses individual filters. Click each one's **?** button for settings.



Black & white (Bc)
Simple black & white effect with a grain and some scratches for natural look in the paper frame

Black & white (Ex)
Black and white effect with matte, grain and caption.

Ragged picture
Old photo with a paper frame, scratches over the picture and ragged corner. Picture quality is reduced to give it vintage look.

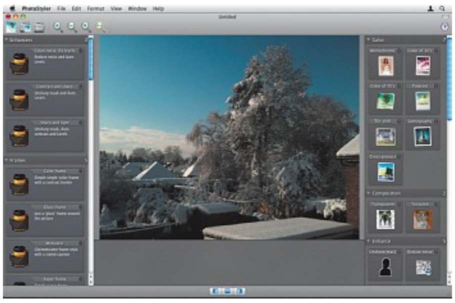
Sepia
Sepia, scratches and texture over the photo, frame and glow.

Simple sepia
Sepia effect, paper frame and shadow

Crop
Crop, frame and caption

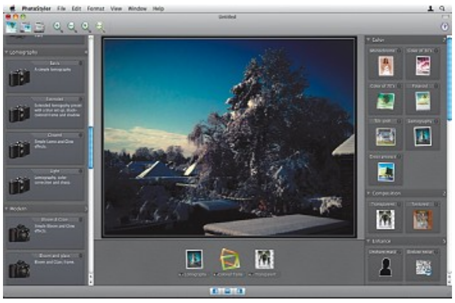
Name: Ragged picture
Category: Monochrome
Icon:
Description: Old photo with a paper frame, scratches over the picture and ragged corner. Picture quality is reduced to give it vintage look.

HOW TO / Get to grips with PhotoStyler



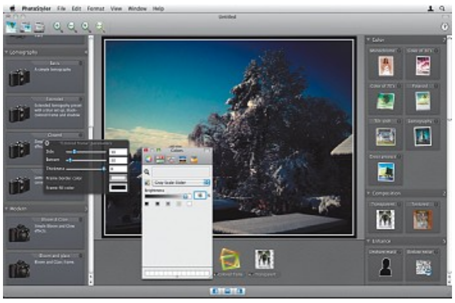
01 Get started

Go to File > New. Ensure all panels are active by clicking the icons in the bottom bar. Drag your photo to the main work area or to *PhotoStyler*'s Dock icon. If you want to follow along exactly, grab our picture of snowy rooftops from **http://tinyurl.com/ycjazgd**.



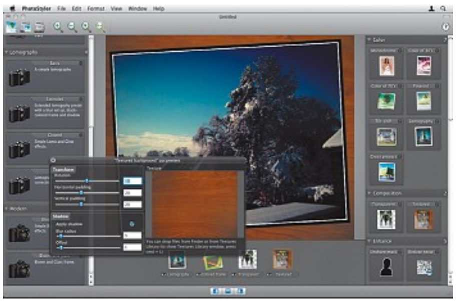
02 Add a preset

Scroll the **Presets** panel until you see the **Lomography** section. Double-click **Extended** to add the filter to the image (or drag it to the photo). Filters comprising the preset will be shown in the **Filters chain** panel. (Use ⌘+Z to undo the application of a preset.)



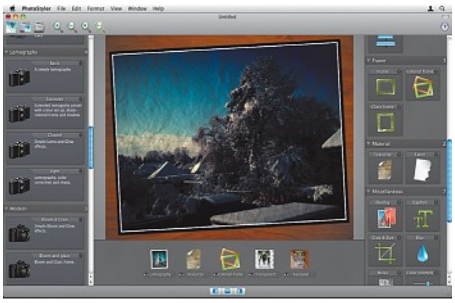
03 Edit filter parameters

Most filters are editable. Click **Colored frame** in the **filters chain**. Tweak the border by setting **Side** and **Bottom** to **30** and **Thickness** to **8**. To reduce the border's glare, click **Frame border color** and set it to **90% Brightness** with the **Color Sliders** panel of the **Colors** window.



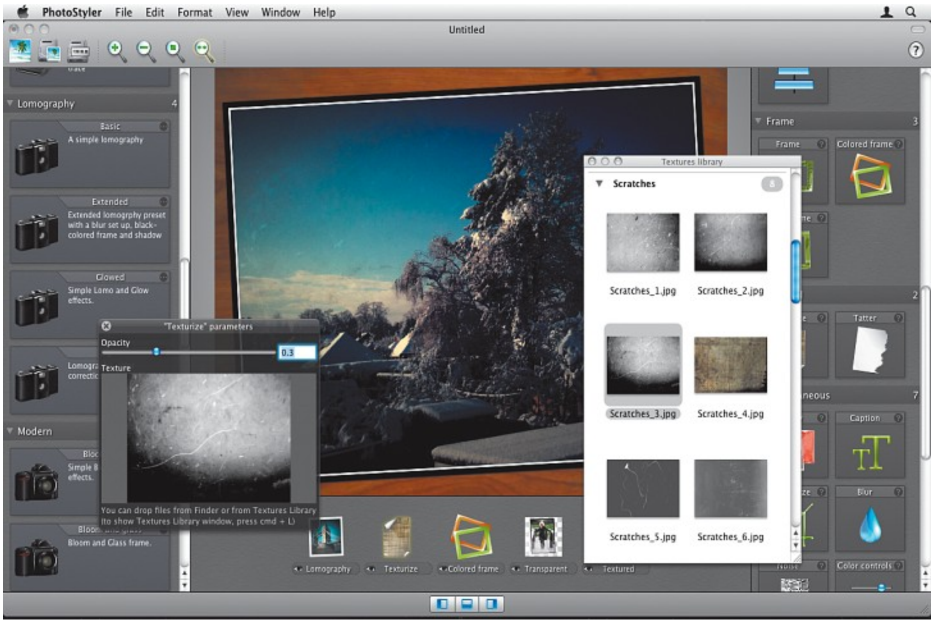
04 Add more filters

Drag **Textured** (in the **Composition** section) from the **Filters** browser panel to the right of the **filters chain**. This will make the photo look like it's lying on a wooden desk. In the **filters chain**, click **Textured** and in the parameters window, set **Rotation** to **-3**.



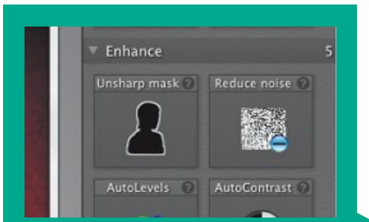
05 Integrate a texture

Drag **Texturize** (from **Material**) between **Lomography** and **Colored frame** in the **filters chain**. This adds a paper texture to any elements to its left in the chain. Temporarily drag **Texturize** to the far right and you'll see that the filter is added to the wooden table too.


PhotoStyler File Edit Format View Window Help
Untitled
Lomography
Basic
A simple lomography
Extended
Extended lomogrphy preset with a blur set up, black-colored frame and shadow
Glowed
Simple Lomo and Glow effects.
Modern
Bloom and Glass frame.
"Texturize" parameters
Opacity
0.3
Texture
You can drop files from Finder or from Textures Library (to show Textures Library window, press cmd + L)
Textures library
Scratches
Scratches_1.jpg
Scratches_2.jpg
Scratches_3.jpg
Scratches_4.jpg
Scratches_5.jpg
Scratches_6.jpg
Frame
Colored frame
Tatter
Caption
Blur
Color controls
Lomography
Texturize
Colored frame
Transparent
Textured

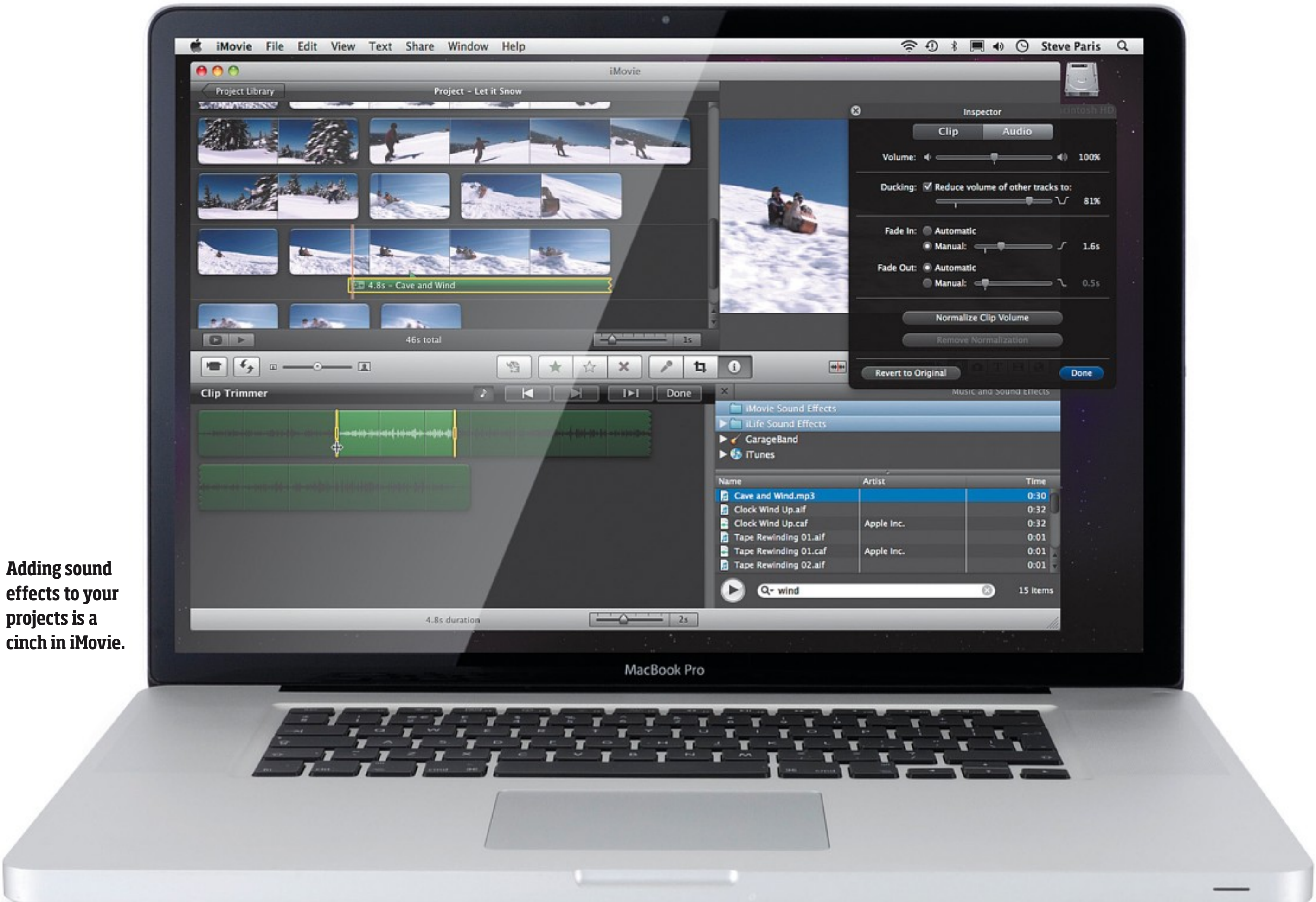
06 Fine-tune and save

The paper texture looks unrealistic, so click **Texturize** and open the **Textures library** (⌘+L or View > Show Textures Library). Scroll down and drag **Scratches_3.jpg** to the **Texturize parameters** window. The main image will update, but it'll be dark. Therefore, drop the **Opacity** in the **Parameters** palette to **0.3**. You now need to save everything. Use File > Save As to save your setup, so you can later revisit the parameters and chain. File > Render Output Image outputs your creation as a flat image (such as a JPEG). Finally, to save the filters chain, go to File > Save Chain as Preset Template – you'll be able to access it from the **Filter presets** panel. ●


Enhance
5
Unsharp mask
Reduce noise
AutoLevels
AutoContrast

QUICK TIP

Although it's primarily concerned with creative effects, *PhotoStyler* has some enhancement filters in its **Enhance** section, including **AutoLevels**, **AutoContrast** and **Reduce noise**. There's also an **Unsharp mask** filter for adding detail to slightly blurry images.


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie
Project Library
Project – Let it Snow
4.8s – Cave and Wind
46s total
Clip Trimmer
Done
4.8s duration
Inspector
Clip
Audio
Normalize Clip Volume
Remove Normalization
Revert to Original
Done
Music and Sound Effects
iMovie Sound Effects
iLife Sound Effects
GarageBand
iTunes
15 items
MacBook Pro

Volume: 100%
Ducking: ☑ Reduce volume of other tracks to: 81%
Fade In: ○ Automatic ● Manual: 1.6s
Fade Out: ● Automatic ○ Manual: 0.5s

Name	Artist	Time
Cave and Wind.mp3		0:30
Clock Wind Up.aif		0:32
Clock Wind Up.caf	Apple Inc.	0:32
Tape Rewinding 01.aif		0:01
Tape Rewinding 01.caf	Apple Inc.	0:01
Tape Rewinding 02.aif		0:01

wind

Adding sound effects to your projects is a cinch in iMovie.

Add sound effects to projects

iMovie has a wealth of effects at its disposal to spice up your hard work…

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Basic

TIME NEEDED:
25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iMovie '09 version 8.0.5 or later, GarageBand '09 version 5.1 or later (£71, both part of iLife '09 http://store.apple.com/uk), iTunes version 9.0.2 or later

Making a movie or even a short film can often take a while, which is not ideal when time is scarce. There are ways to speed up the process, and needing to do something quickly doesn't always mean it has to be a hack job.

When it redesigned *iMovie* from scratch back in 2007, Apple went to great lengths to make the editing process as intuitive, simple and fast as possible. For instance, it's now easy to shoot footage, upload it to your Mac, edit out the boring bits with *iMovie* and reorder the footage so that it works as a short project. But what about the atmosphere? Nearly all programmes on TV these days have background music and a lot of the sounds you hear, such as a doorbell, a baby crying or a car speeding away, have been added in after so that the best sound could be selected to create the appropriate feel for that scene.

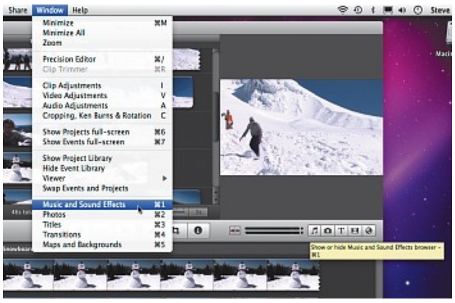
How could you hope to replicate this with *iMovie*? Well, even if you have no musical talent, you'll find *iMovie* is in fact there to help you with a selection of royalty-free jingles that you can use to liven up your project. This doesn't mean, however, that you won't find this feature relevant to you if you are able to compose music: that same interface can grant you access to your *GarageBand* songs, and even your *iTunes* library. Furthermore, you will also find hundreds of sound effects from animals calls, to machinery, to sports and general chatter, among others, all ready and waiting to spice up your work.

> *"Sounds and background music are added in after to create an appropriate feel for that scene"*

These effects can be accessed from *iMovie's* Music and Sound Effects section. We'll show you how to get to them, look for the perfect sound and add it to your project. We'll also show you how to add sound effects from other sources, all within these two pages.

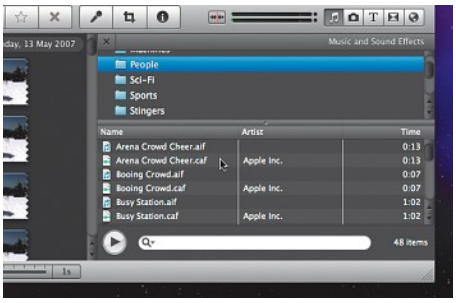
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Add music and sound effects to projects


Window
Minimize
Minimize All
Zoom
Precision Editor
Clip Trimmer
Clip Adjustments
Video Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation
Show Projects full-screen
Show Events full-screen
Show Project Library
Hide Event Library
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects
Photos
Titles
Transitions
Maps and Backgrounds
Show or hide Music and Sound Effects browser

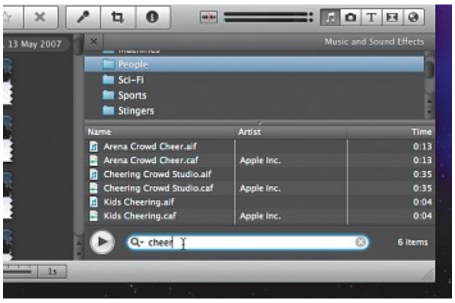
01 Getting to the music

Open an existing project or create one from scratch. You can access the music section in one of three ways: click on the Toolbar's music button (far right of that part of the interface), go to Window > Music and Sound Effects, or use the ⌘-1 keyboard shortcut.


Music and Sound Effects
People
Sci-Fi
Sports
Stingers
Name
Artist
Time
Arena Crowd Cheer.aif
Arena Crowd Cheer.caf
Booing Crowd.aif
Booing Crowd.caf
Busy Station.aif
Busy Station.caf
Apple Inc.
48 items

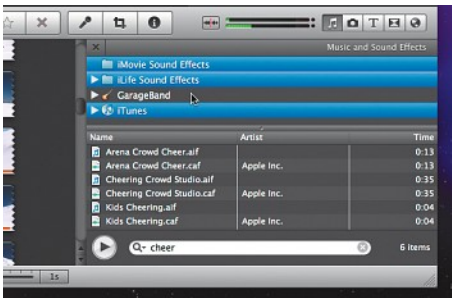
02 Selecting a category

You should have four folders within that section: *iMovie* Sound Effects, *iLife* Sound Effects, *GarageBand* and *iTunes*. All but the first have a disclosure triangle to their left. Click on it to reveal further categories. Choose one and a list of tracks appears beneath it.


Music and Sound Effects
People
Sci-Fi
Sports
Stingers
Arena Crowd Cheer.aif
Arena Crowd Cheer.caf
Cheering Crowd Studio.aif
Cheering Crowd Studio.caf
Kids Cheering.aif
Kids Cheering.caf
cheer
6 items

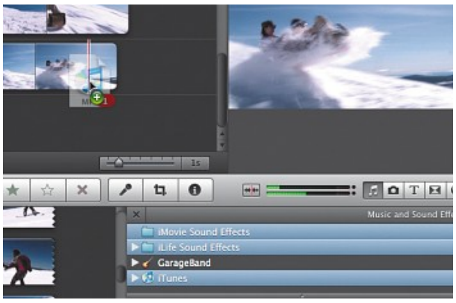
03 Previewing and searching

To preview a track, select it then click on the Play button. To that button's right is a search field. Type in what you're looking for and if it exists in that folder, *iMovie* will display it instantly. Select another folder and *iMovie* will then look for a file there instead.


Music and Sound Effects
iMovie Sound Effects
iLife Sound Effects
GarageBand
iTunes
Arena Crowd Cheer.aif
Arena Crowd Cheer.caf
Cheering Crowd Studio.aif
Cheering Crowd Studio.caf
Kids Cheering.aif
Kids Cheering.caf
cheer
6 items

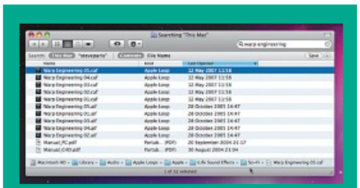
04 Multiple selections

You could go to the top folder to look for a clip within all of its categories at once, but you cannot search within all four main folders in one go, unless you do the following: click on one of those folders and ⌘-click on the others to highlight them all.


Music and Sound Effects
iMovie Sound Effects
iLife Sound Effects
GarageBand
iTunes

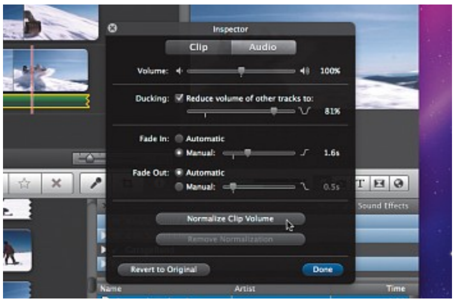
05 Adding to a project

Once you've found the right track, click on it to select it and drag it onto your project. It will be represented by a green bar beneath your video clip. It doesn't matter where it landed: you can alter its position by dragging it left, right, up or down until you're satisfied with its location.



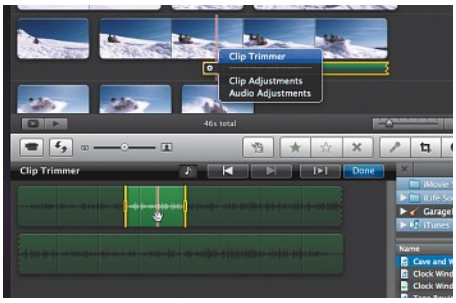
QUICK TIP

All those bundled sound effects are stored somewhere on your Mac. The easiest way to see where that precise location actually is, is to type in a track's name in **Spotlight** and then select **Show All**. You can then highlight the file from the newly opened *Finder* window to easily see its location at the bottom of that window.


Inspector
Clip
Audio
Volume:
100%
Ducking:
Reduce volume of other tracks to:
81%
Fade In:
Automatic
Manual:
1.6s
Fade Out:
Automatic
Manual:
0.5s
Normalize Clip Volume
Remove Normalization
Revert to Original
Done

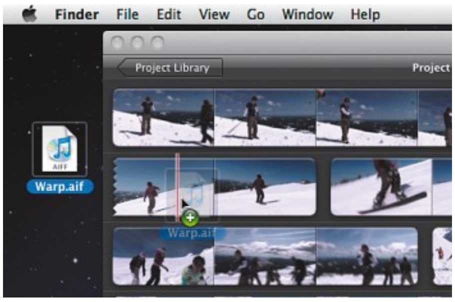
06 The Audio Inspector

Double-click on that clip to reveal the Inspector window. Select the Audio tab. From there, you can change the volume, lower other tracks overlapping it, and choose how much it fades in/out. Normalise Clip Volume button raises its level without distortion.


Clip Trimmer
Clip Adjustments
Audio Adjustments
46s total
Clip Trimmer
Done

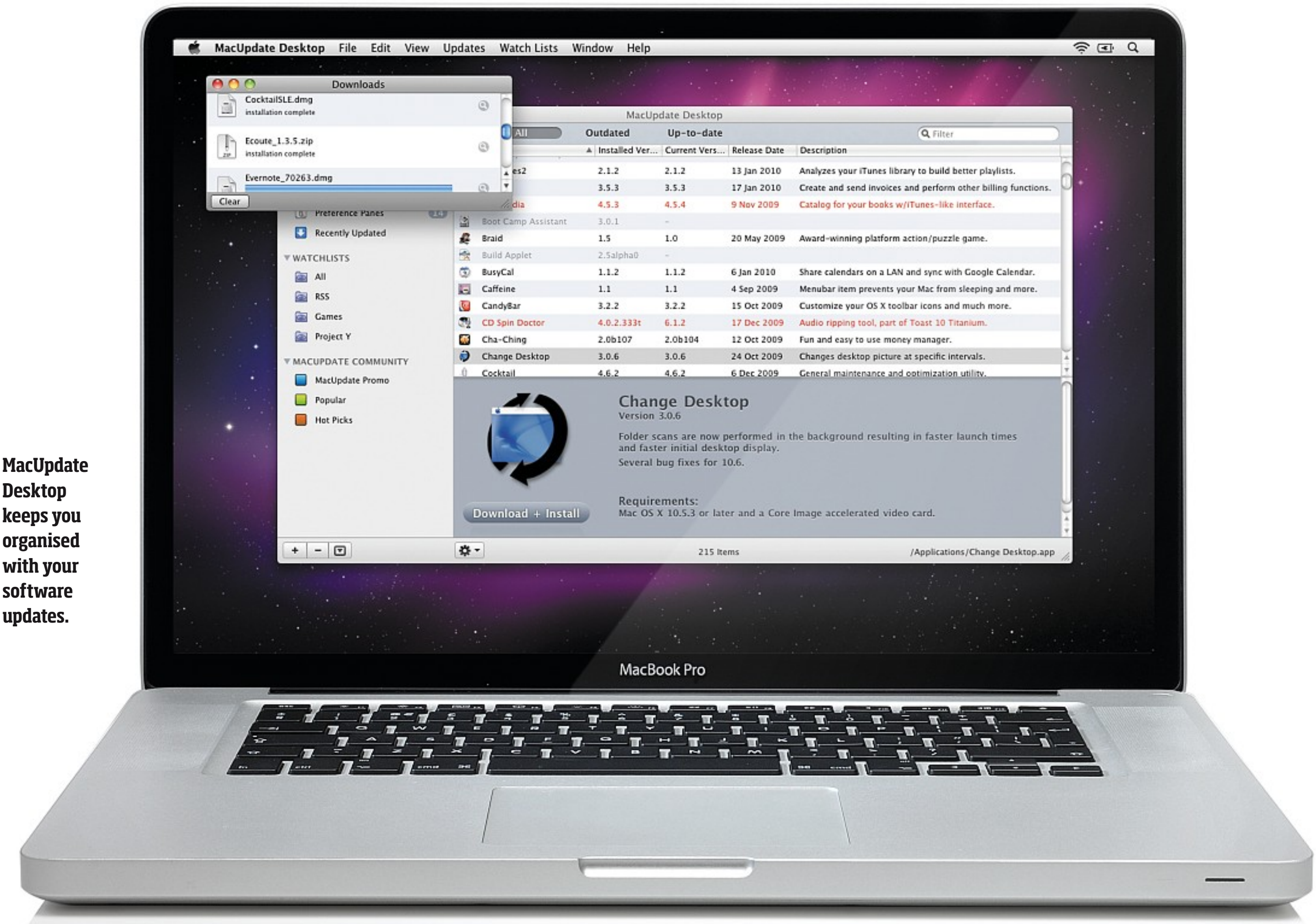
07 Trimming your audio

Click on Done to exit the Inspector. To alter the beginning and end of your track, select its cog-wheel menu and choose Clip Trimmer. This replaces the Event section of the interface with a larger version of your track. Drag the yellow handles to choose which part to cut out.


Finder
File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
Project Library
Project
Warp.aif
Warp.aif

08 From the Finder

You don't have to use tracks from the Music and Sound Effects section: if you've downloaded other tracks from the web or have some on CD, drag them from *Finder* straight onto your project. There's no need to import them into an Event as with video clips. ●


MacUpdate Desktop
File
Edit
View
Updates
Watch Lists
Window
Help
Downloads
CocktailSLE.dmg
installation complete
Ecoute_1.3.5.zip
installation complete
Evernote_70263.dmg
Clear
Preference Panes
Recently Updated
WATCHLISTS
All
RSS
Games
Project Y
MACUPDATE COMMUNITY
MacUpdate Promo
Popular
Hot Picks
MacUpdate Desktop
All
Outdated
Up-to-date
Filter
Download + Install
MacBook Pro

	Installed Ver...	Current Vers...	Release Date	Description
es2	2.1.2	2.1.2	13 Jan 2010	Analyzes your iTunes library to build better playlists.
	3.5.3	3.5.3	17 Jan 2010	Create and send invoices and perform other billing functions.
dia	4.5.3	4.5.4	9 Nov 2009	Catalog for your books w/iTunes-like interface.
Boot Camp Assistant	3.0.1	-		
Braid	1.5	1.0	20 May 2009	Award-winning platform action/puzzle game.
Build Applet	2.5alpha0	-		
BusyCal	1.1.2	1.1.2	6 Jan 2010	Share calendars on a LAN and sync with Google Calendar.
Caffeine	1.1	1.1	4 Sep 2009	Menubar item prevents your Mac from sleeping and more.
CandyBar	3.2.2	3.2.2	15 Oct 2009	Customize your OS X toolbar icons and much more.
CD Spin Doctor	4.0.2.333t	6.1.2	17 Dec 2009	Audio ripping tool, part of Toast 10 Titanium.
Cha-Ching	2.0b107	2.0b104	12 Oct 2009	Fun and easy to use money manager.
Change Desktop	3.0.6	3.0.6	24 Oct 2009	Changes desktop picture at specific intervals.
Cocktail	4.6.2	4.6.2	6 Dec 2009	General maintenance and optimization utility.

Change Desktop
Version 3.0.6

Folder scans are now performed in the background resulting in faster launch times and faster initial desktop display.

Several bug fixes for 10.6.

Requirements:
Mac OS X 10.5.3 or later and a Core Image accelerated video card.

215 Items

/Applications/Change Desktop.app

MacUpdate Desktop keeps you organised with your software updates.

Keeping your Mac up to date

Introducing the only app you need to update everything on your Mac

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
MacUpdate Desktop 5 (download from **www.macupdate.com/desktop**), MacUpdate membership ($20 per year), Mac OS X 10.5 or later

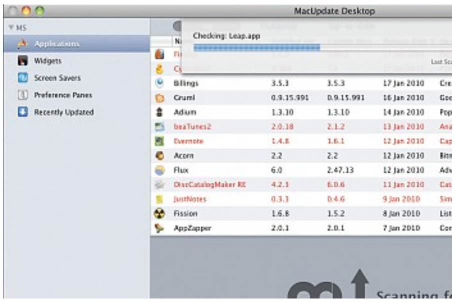
Most applications on your Mac will check for updates periodically and notify you when a new version has become available. More and more apps are offering automatic background downloading of updates, so all you need to do is click to install the latest versions as and when they're released. Both of these solutions, though, require you to keep open the program that's being updated. That might seem fine, but, more often than not, there are circumstances in which you aren't able to open an application. For instance, whenever OS X is updated to a new version, it's inevitable that a few applications will stop working altogether, and so you're stuck with having to visit a whole bunch of developers' sites, in order to get your machine properly up and running again. This can be hugely time-consuming and inconvenient. Or what if you were offline for a few weeks and unable to download software updates? Chances are that you would want to get everything up to date as soon as you came back from the wilderness. And, of course, it just slows things down when you open up an application and then you have to wait for a new version to download and go through the rigmarole of installation when you simply want to be getting on with things. Well, luckily, *MacUpdate Desktop* can automate the process for you. It also connects you up to social aspects of one of the biggest repositories of Mac software (and, according to the magazine *Inc.*, it's the 114th fastest-growing privately owned company in the whole of the US).

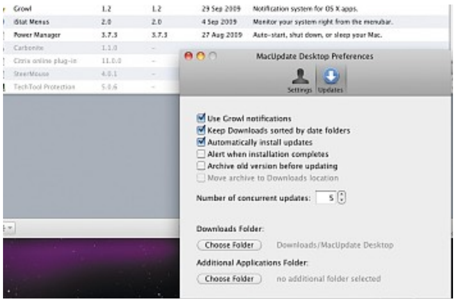
> *"It can automate the process, and connect you to one of the biggest repositories of Mac software…"*

The job of keeping your Mac's software up to date is simplified down to periodically running this one application and giving it a few minutes to check through your machine, download, and automatically install all available updates. We'll walk you through the simple process.

Ian Tromp

HOW TO / Get started with MacUpdate Desktop



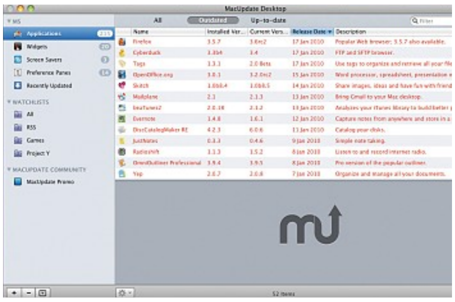


Use Growl notifications ☑
Keep Downloads sorted by date folders ☑
Automatically install updates ☑
Alert when installation completes ☐
Archive old version before updating ☐
Move archive to Downloads location

Number of concurrent updates: 5

Downloads Folder: Choose Folder Downloads/MacUpdate Desktop

Additional Applications Folder: Choose Folder no additional folder selected



01 Jump right in

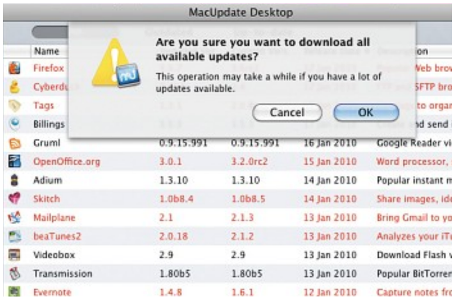
As soon as you open *MacUpdate Desktop*, it starts searching through your apps, checking to see if you have the most recent versions installed, or if any updates have snuck through. Software with updates available will be coloured red in the list.

02 Not just applications

It's not only the contents of your Applications folder that are checked, but also screensavers, *Dashboard* widgets, and preference panes. You can also specify any other folder if you install software elsewhere than the Applications folder.

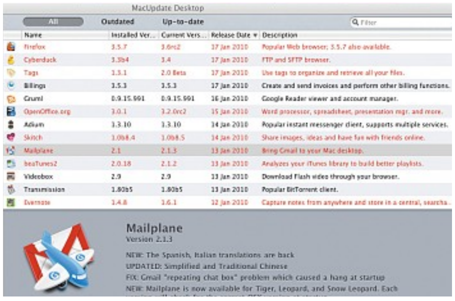
03 Narrowing it down

You can use the three top-row buttons to display All your software, only the Outdated, or just those apps that are Up to date. If you're after updating just one thing, use the search bar at top-right to filter the list – this is helpful if, like us, you have loads of apps on your Mac.



Are you sure you want to download all available updates?

This operation may take a while if you have a lot of updates available.



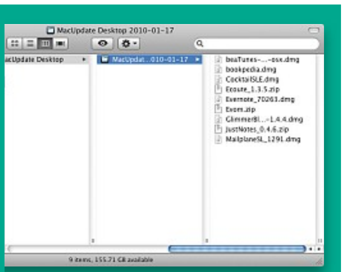
Mailplane
Version 2.1.3
NEW: The Spanish, Italian translations are back
UPDATED: Simplified and Traditional Chinese
FIX: Gmail "repeating chat box" problem which caused a hang at startup
NEW: Mailplane is now available for Tiger, Leopard, and Snow Leopard. Each

04 Put it on Autopilot…

The simplest way to work with *MacUpdate Desktop* is, once it's finished its initial scan, to hit ctrl + ⌘ + D (or click Updates and then Download+Install All Updates) and let it do it automatically. Any problems are noted in the Downloads window.

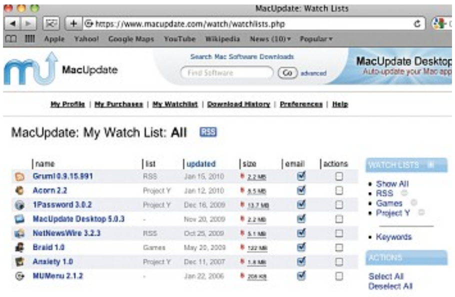
05 … or stay in control

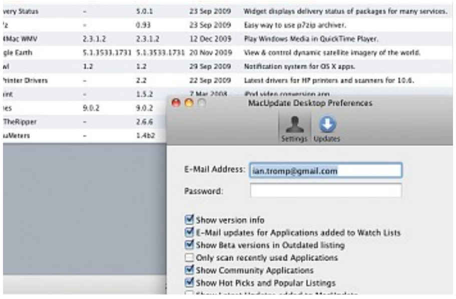
To organise updates yourself. click to select items, which will show a summary of changes in a section of the main window, and click Download + Install to update. When it's a paid upgrade, the button will read Buy Now and link you through to an online store.



QUICK TIP

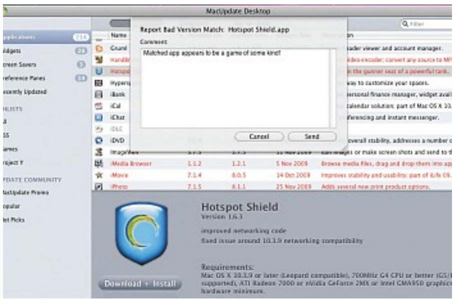
By default, *MacUpdate Desktop* downloads to a subdirectory of your **Downloads** folder (change which folder is used in **Preferences…**). It's worth emptying this folder once in a while, since the app installers could end up eating disk space.





E-Mail Address: ian.tromp@gmail.com
Password:

☑ Show version info
☑ E-Mail updates for Applications added to Watch Lists
☑ Show Beta versions in Outdated listing
☐ Only scan recently used Applications
☑ Show Community Applications
☑ Show Hot Picks and Popular Listings



06 Watchlists

By clicking the + at the bottom-left of the window, you can add Watchlists – grouping together apps you use for specific tasks. Your Watchlists are synced to your *MacUpdate* account, and you can be notified by email when apps are updated.

07 Community matters

In Preferences… you can tick a couple of boxes to have *MacUpdate Desktop* display Community Applications, Hot Picks and Popular Listings. These are a good way to learn about recently added apps, or just to keep an eye on what the latest trends are.

08 When things go wrong

If you find *MacUpdate Desktop* downloads something that doesn't match the app it claimed was out of date, highlight the item and hit ⌘ + B or click Updates and then Report Bad Match. You can then fill in a brief description of the error to *MacUpdate*. ●

Set up your own blog

Use WordPress to get your blog up and running like clockwork

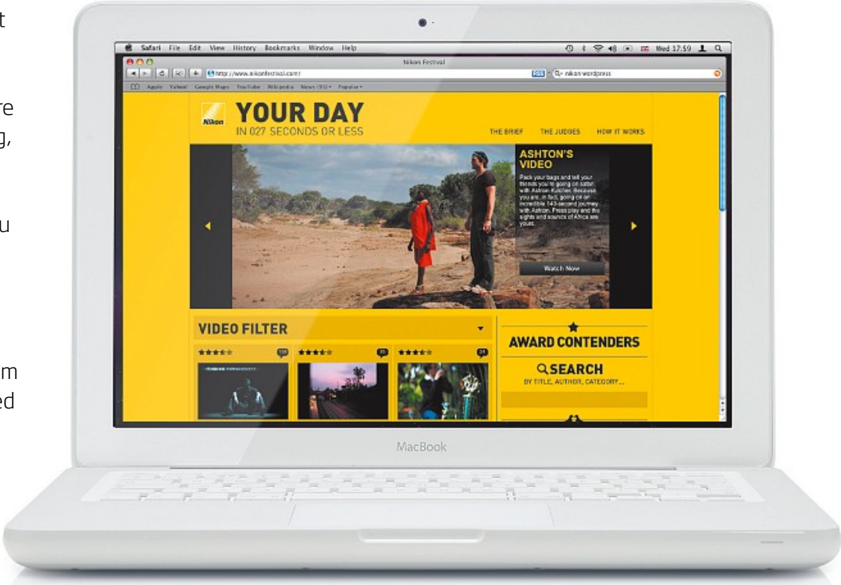
PART 1 See part 2 on configuring your WordPress blog next month!

»QUICK TIP

Structured Query Language is the type of database all *WordPress* installations are built on. It's where your blog entries live. Each time your *WordPress* install is asked to display a website, it queries the SQL database, then formats the resulting data into your chosen layout. You don't need to worry about it for a normal installation, but a bit of extra knowledge is useful, particularly as you get more advanced.

Websites can be hard to set up. Even when theoretically simple languages such as HTML and CSS are involved, creating a fully functioning, well-designed website takes hundreds of hours if you start from square one. It gets even worse if you want a website that you update frequently, as you have to dig back into your original code to make changes. This explains why a good, reliable Content Management System (CMS) is essential. CMSs are designed to be easy enough to use that even non-technical users can update websites, even adding pictures and video, without a coding guru needing to peer over their shoulder. The simplicity of modern CMSs, and *WordPress* in particular, is part of the reason for the phenomenon of blogging.

WordPress is perhaps the most impressive, powerful and widely used blogging system there is. It has an immense reputation for a very good reason. For beginners and non-technical types it's incredibly easy to set up and install, even on your own domain. It claims – accurately – that you can get it up and running in just five minutes.



WordPress isn't just for amateurs: companies such as Nikon use it as well

Why WordPress?

And, for users who know their way around, or are looking to pick up a few coding skills in order to have a customised blog, *WordPress* can be tweaked to an incredible degree. It's all open-source, and all you need, to change how your blog looks or works, is a basic text editor – and that's if you're taking the trickier route.

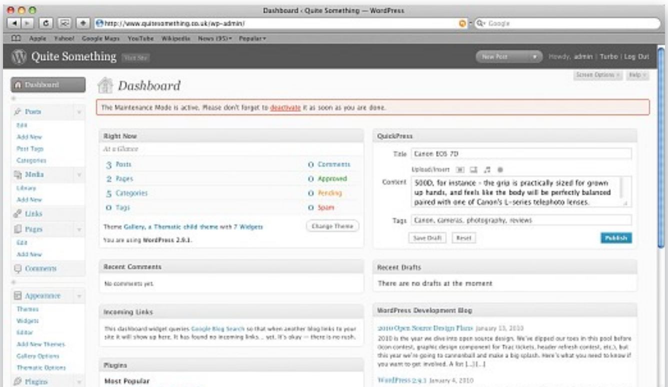
There's a supremely satisfying middle ground as well, for those who want their blog to look slightly different, but don't want to get bogged down with manual coding. *WordPress* can change how your blog looks by allowing you to choose from literally thousands of different themes, or change how it works by adding various plugins. A plugin is an immensely useful mini application that allows you to – for instance – make the rest of your blog fade out when someone clicks on an image. You can even get plugins that add shopping carts to your blog, allowing you to create an online shop with the minimum of fuss. Testament to *WordPress's* power is the ever-growing list of companies using it to spread the message to their customers. National Geographic, Ford and Nikon are just three companies who use *WordPress* professionally.

> *"For beginners it's easy to set up and install. It claims you can get up and running in just five minutes"*

Getting your *WordPress* blog off the ground takes a little preparation, but as long as you pay attention and follow the instructions you're unlikely to have many problems. For the purposes of this walkthrough we'll assume you want to have a self-hosted blog – that is to say, people will type in www.mymarvellousblog.com, for instance, and be whisked straight to your website. The other option is to have a blog hosted by someone else. This is the easier but less professional-looking option – to do it, go to **www.wordpress.com** and sign up.

In the domain

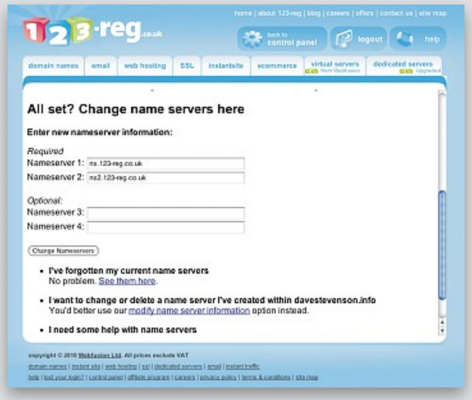
The first thing you'll need to get for yourself is a domain name. These are fairly cheap – expect to pay around £6 per year for a .com domain and around £3 a year for a .co.uk address. **GoDaddy.com** is a good place for .com addresses, while **123-reg.co.uk** has good deals on .co.uk addresses. Expect to spend much more if you want a domain name that someone else has already bought, as you'll need to buy it from them.



WordPress is an easy-to-use but deceptively powerful content management system for blogs.

HOW TO / Get your own domain name

If you want simplicity, you should get your domain name at the same time as your hosting, and get both from the same company. That way they'll be linked from the beginning, and the amount of back-end tinkering you'll need to do will be kept to a minimum. However, it's possible that you'll already have a stock of domain names that you want to link with a hosting account. Setting up your new URL to point to someone else's domain hosting is simple. Once your hosted account and domain name are bought, you need to find out what your nameservers (the hardware that converts a typed URL into an IP address) at your hosting company are. This is simple – head to the help section once you're logged in to your host and search for "nameservers". The result should be at least two addresses. Next, go to the company that provided your domain name – even though you don't have hosting you still have the ability to forward email and so on. Go to the **Nameservers** section of the control panel, and replace the original details with the ones you took down from your hosting company. Save your changes and wait – the process can take two days to propagate through the net. Once done, you won't need to trouble your domain name provider until your URL is due for renewal.


123-reg.co.uk
home | about 123-reg | blog | careers | offers | contact us | site map
back to control panel
logout
help
domain names
email
web hosting
SSL
instantsite
ecommerce
virtual servers
dedicated servers

All set? Change name servers here

Enter new nameserver information:

Required
Nameserver 1: ns.123-reg.co.uk
Nameserver 2: ns2.123-reg.co.uk

Optional:
Nameserver 3:
Nameserver 4:

Change Nameservers

- I've forgotten my current name servers
  No problem. See them here.
- I want to change or delete a name server I've created within davestevenson.info
  You'd better use our modify name server information option instead.
- I need some help with name servers

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Set up domain name and hosting at the same company.

SEE OUR OTHER BRANDS
123-reg.co.uk
home | about 123-reg | blog | careers | offers | contact us | site map
log in to your control panel
sign up
help
domain names
email
web hosting
SSL
instantsite
ecommerce
virtual servers from Webfusion
dedicated servers Upgraded
Save over 70% in our January sale
BIGGEST EVER SALE
See all offers
Every domain name includes
Homepage
Control panel
Full DNS control
Email forwarding
Web forwarding
domain search
www.
search
Domain prices | Domains explained
.mobi .me £3.88 a year
SAVE OVER 70%
.com .net .org .tel .info .eu .be £9.99 a year
.at .es £14.99 a year
NEW DOMAIN PARKING
web hosting all new packages
3 MONTHS FREE
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WE HOST OVER 2 MILLION DOMAIN NAMES

Prices slashed on web hosting, domain names and SSL certificates. But hurry, these offers won't hang around!

Snap up your ideal domain name today - it only takes seconds to find and buy.

- Get your site online from just £2.49
- Local rate UK telephone support
- Up to 10GB of space and 150GB traffic
- New packages include databases and scripting
- Install applications with One-Click

You won't find a higher spec VPS anywhere in the UK.

Setting up a domain name and hosting at WordPress will only cost you a tenner a month.

Next, you'll need somewhere for your blog to run. A *WordPress* blog is a piece of software, albeit not one that runs from your Mac. That means besides simple hard disk space on a server, you need a few minor bells and whistles to go with it. Make sure your prospective web host provides compatibility with PHP and SQL databases. The beauty of *WordPress* is that you don't need to know what either of these mean, (although see the boxes for a quick definition) but without them your blog won't run, and you'll have trouble convincing your hosting provider to give your money back if you've made a mistake and bought an account with the wrong features. Web hosting is cheap – for this tutorial we've used GoDaddy.com, an American service. For around £25 you can get 10GB of storage (more than sufficient for most blogs, even if you intend to stream video), and 300GB of traffic. The only drawback with GoDaddy is its confusing, unintuitive administration interface, but once your blog is set up you won't have to deal with it.

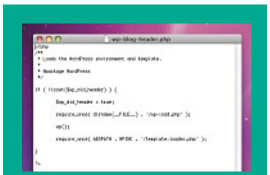
We go through installing your blog in the walkthrough on the next page, but the next thing you'll need is to get to grips with FTP. When you created your hosting account your new host will have told you the FTP address of your site. For the most part, OS X provides adequate FTP abilities – press ⌘+K in the *Finder* and type your new FTP address to see the nuts and bolts of your site. More advanced users, will want the smarter features of a standalone FTP application – *MacFormat*'s current weapon of choice is *FileZilla*, a reliable, fast and free apps you can download from http://filezilla-project.org. If you end up making changes to the files that power *WordPress*, rather than going through the front-end, FileZilla is a good choice.

> *"A WordPress blog is a piece of software. That means, you need a few minor bells and whistles to go with it"*

Upload multimedia

With *WordPress* installed, you'll be able to see why so many bloggers swear by it. In five minutes you'll have installed an enormously powerful blogging application. Naturally, you get rich text formatting, but straight from the off *WordPress* allows you to upload images and video files without needing to re-visit your FTP application. Once you've clicked New Post, simply click the image button on the toolbar and *WordPress* will automatically upload your multimedia files into new folders on your FTP server. You can also add image thumbnails to your posts, which is useful if you have irregularly sized images that you want to make the same size once they're on the page.

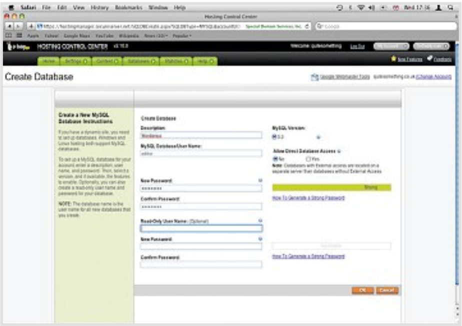
In fact, once your blog is installed, it's possible to get very full use from *WordPress* without ever needing to

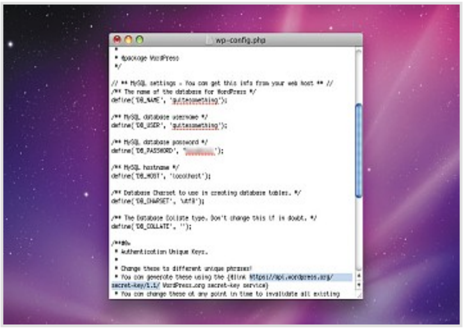


QUICK TIP

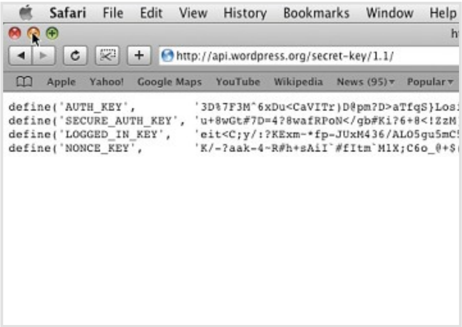
PHP is the programming language upon which *WordPress* is based. Unlike HTML, a PHP page gets its content from a database. It's PHP that allows *WordPress* blogs to have several thousand entries, yet only a handful of files on an FTP server. A bit of trivia – PHP stands for Personal Home Page.

HOW TO / Install your WordPress blog





```
 *
 * @package WordPress
 */

// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //
/** The name of the database for WordPress */
define('DB_NAME', 'quitesomething');

/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'quitesomething');

/** MySQL database password */
define('DB_PASSWORD', '[redacted]');

/** MySQL hostname */
define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');

/** Database Charset to use in creating database tables. */
define('DB_CHARSET', 'utf8');

/** The Database Collate type. Don't change this if in doubt. */
define('DB_COLLATE', '');

/**#@+
 * Authentication Unique Keys.
 *
 * Change these to different unique phrases!
 * You can generate these using the {@link https://api.wordpress.org/
secret-key/1.1/ WordPress.org secret-key service}
 * You can change these at any point in time to invalidate all existing
```



http://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/

```
define('AUTH_KEY',        '3D%7F3M^6xDu<CaVITr)D@pm?D>aTfqS}Los
define('SECURE_AUTH_KEY', 'u+8wGt#7D=4?8wafRPoN</gb#Ki?6+8<!ZzM
define('LOGGED_IN_KEY',   'eit<C;y/:?KExm-*fp-JUxM436/ALO5gu5mC
define('NONCE_KEY',       'K/-?aak-4-R#h+sAiI`#fItm`M1X;C6o_@+$
```

01 Set up a SQL database

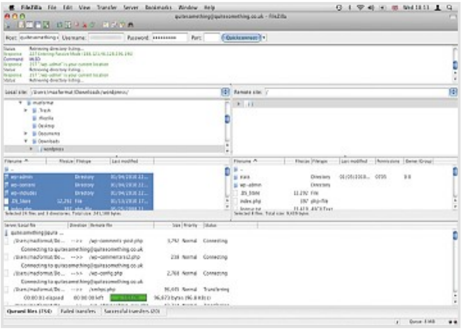
With your web hosting and domain name set up, the first step is to set up an SQL database. Your new host's help section will walk you through the process of setting one up. Make sure you note down the name of the database, as well as your username and password.

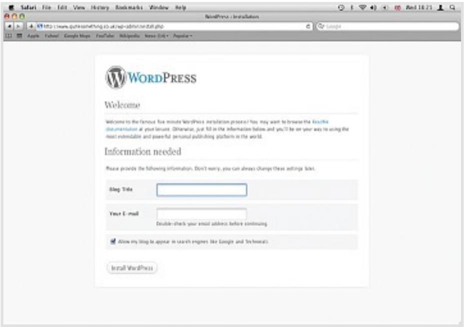
02 Download WordPress

Download WordPress from **www.wordpress.org**. Rename **wp-config-sample.php** to **wp-config.php** before you install and open using *TextEdit*. Go to the section called **My SQL settings**. Enter the details exactly as they appeared when you created your database.

03 Secure your site

Copy and paste the link in the config file into the address bar of your web browser to generate a set of keys that will make your passwords harder to crack. Copy the keys from your web browser back into your config file. Save it and close it.



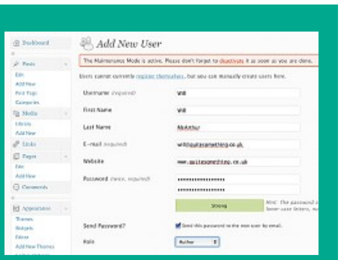


04 Upload to new host

Log in to your space using *FileZilla* (**www.filezilla-project.org**) with **ftp://mygreatsite.com**, although different hosts can vary. Upload everything in your *WordPress* folder to your new host. Go to **www.mygreatsite.com** and you'll see the WordPress welcome screen.

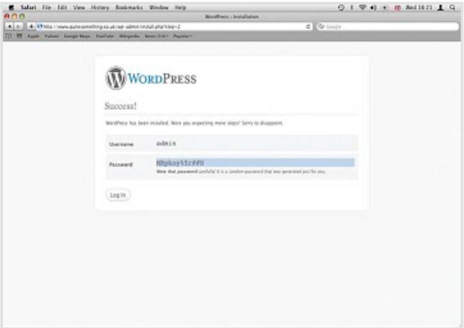
05 Name your blog

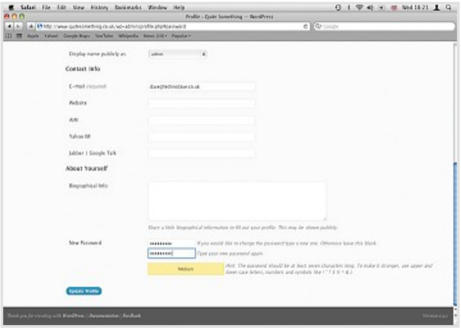
Think up a name for your blog and make sure you enter a reliable email address so your *WordPress* install knows where to reach you – this address will be used when someone leaves a comment on your blog, or where a new password will be sent if you forget your old one.

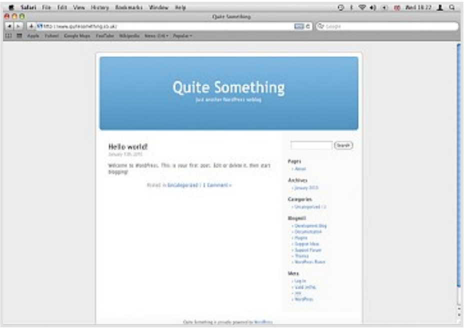


QUICK TIP

Add extra users to update your blog from *WordPress's* dashboard. New users can have administrative privileges, or restricted abilities. It works in a similar way to adding new users to your Mac with Administrators having the most power.







08 Nearly there…

Going from uploading your files to this point should take minutes – when you see this screen, your blog is almost ready. Copy the password that's generated: you can change it once you're in. Your login screen can be seen by all, so make your password strong.

07 Make a strong password

Change your password. You should also add a new user with administrative privileges, then login as that user, then delete the original 'Admin' account that came with *WordPress* – 'Admin' is an easy username to guess so change it to something less common.

08 Give your blog a theme

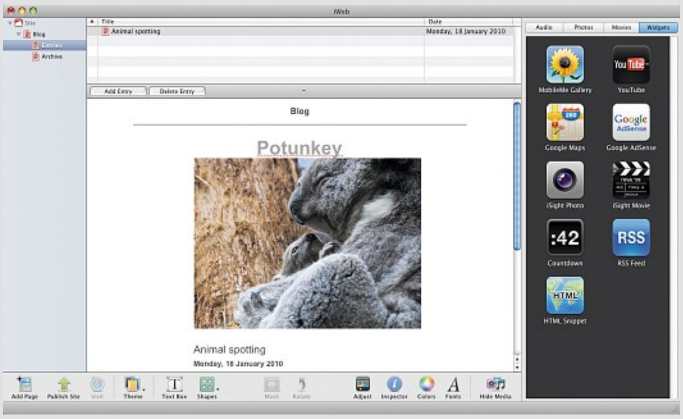
Click **Visit Site** to see the prototype of your new blog. Try a few themes until you find one you like. When you next visit your blog, type **www.mygreatblog.co.uk/wp-admin** to get to the login screen. For more on how to customise *WordPress*, check back next month.

HOW TO / What's wrong with iWeb?

It's difficult to ignore the temptation of Apple's *iWeb*. You probably already have it, it produces acceptable results, and although *WordPress* is nearly foolproof, *iWeb* doesn't require you to go near an SQL database or fiddle with the back-ends of hosting accounts or domain names. *iWeb* even gives you a modicum of customisation – there are themes to download and enough multimedia compatibility to keep people happy.

But there's still no question that, for the ambitious webmaster – and particularly for those who think they might make some money from their blog or a business related to it – that *WordPress* leaves *iWeb* in the dust. For a start, *WordPress* has a far more active community than *iWeb*, which means a lot more choice when it comes to themes, as well as more plugins, and more help forums if you get stuck. The upshot of this is that your website is likely to be more individual if you use *WordPress* – *iWeb*'s themes are quite heavy on the clip art and stock backgrounds, which will mark your new site out as the work of a rookie.

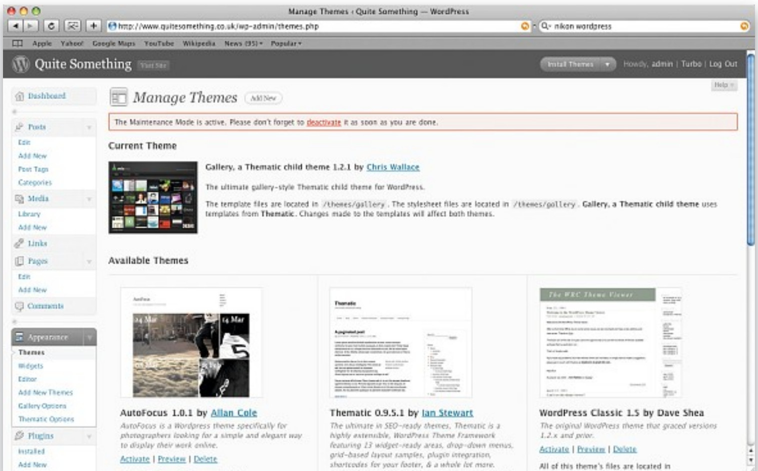
iWeb is also poorly suited to blogging. You might be able to add a blog, but in order for you to update it you need to be in front of a Mac that has *iWeb* installed – not much use if you're without your MacBook. A *WordPress* blog can be updated from any computer with a web browser, and you won't lose any features.


iWeb
Blog
Potunkey
Animal spotting
Monday, 18 January 2010
Add Entry
Delete Entry
MobileMe Gallery
YouTube
Google Maps
Google AdSense
iSight Photo
iSight Movie
Countdown
RSS Feed
HTML Snippet
Add Page
Publish Site
Theme
Text Box
Shapes
Adjust
Inspector
Colors
Fonts
Hide Media

iWeb is not great for blogging, especially if you update from different machines.

There are a few upsides. *iWeb* is undeniably easy to use, and its integration with *iPhoto* means that if you don't care to learn anything new you can still have a decent-looking presence on the web. But for those with a modicum of ambition, you won't regret giving *WordPress* a go.

trouble an FTP client again. In days gone by, installing new themes or plugins was a nuisance: you had to download a new theme, upload it via FTP, then activate it in *WordPress*. Now, if you go to *WordPress*'s dashboard and click themes, one of the first things you'll see is a button marked **Add new**. Click this and you're taken to a wonderland of free, new themes, and installing a new one couldn't be simpler. The same goes for plugins, which can be searched for by keyword. *WordPress* is resilient to user error as well – if you make a mistake in the front end (as opposed to in an FTP client or trying to edit your *WordPress* database) you're very likely to be able to undo your changes and return to a working version of your site.


Manage Themes ‹ Quite Something — WordPress
http://www.quitesomething.co.uk/wp-admin/themes.php
nikon wordpress
Apple
Yahoo!
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (95)
Popular
Quite Something
Visit Site
Install Themes
Howdy, admin | Turbo | Log Out
Help
Dashboard
Posts
Edit
Add New
Post Tags
Categories
Media
Library
Add New
Links
Pages
Edit
Add New
Comments
Appearance
Themes
Widgets
Editor
Add New Themes
Gallery Options
Thematic Options
Plugins
Installed
Add New
Manage Themes
Add New

The Maintenance Mode is active. Please don't forget to deactivate it as soon as you are done.

Current Theme

Gallery, a Thematic child theme 1.2.1 by Chris Wallace

The ultimate gallery-style Thematic child theme for WordPress.

The template files are located in `/themes/gallery`. The stylesheet files are located in `/themes/gallery`. **Gallery, a Thematic child theme** uses templates from **Thematic**. Changes made to the templates will affect both themes.

Available Themes

AutoFocus 1.0.1 by Allan Cole
AutoFocus is a Wordpress theme specifically for photographers looking for a simple and elegant way to display their work online.
Activate | Preview | Delete

Thematic 0.9.5.1 by Ian Stewart
The ultimate in SEO-ready themes. Thematic is a highly extensible, WordPress Theme Framework featuring 13 widget-ready areas, drop-down menus, grid-based layout samples, plugin integration, shortcodes for your footer, & a whole lot more.

WordPress Classic 1.5 by Dave Shea
The original WordPress theme that graced versions 1.2.x and prior.
Activate | Preview | Delete
All of this theme's files are located in

It's endlessly customisable – see next month for more on WordPress's myriad of themes.

Get writing

So now your new blog is unpacked and ready to go, what should you write about? It's unlikely that you'll find fame or fortune through blogging – you're joining hundreds of millions of voices online, after all. But a blog is a good way of getting into writing about a subject you're passionate about, or keeping people updated with your activities. If you're a keen photographer you'll find plenty of *WordPress* themes and plugins that allow you to display, share and even sell your photos.

The most important thing is to update regularly – aim to add a few posts a week to your blog and people will come back to check it more frequently. Remember that *WordPress* is a powerful piece of software, so in order to keep things ticking over you can write a number of posts ahead of time, then set them up to publish automatically, allowing you to spread your output over a few weeks or even months. It's also crucial that you keep up to date with comments – as a poster child of Web 2.0, part of the appeal of blogging is its democracy. So when people leave comments, it's a good idea to reply. *WordPress* offers some fairly advanced tools for managing your growing Web 2.0 community, enabling you to manage people who sign up, as well as letting you moderate the comments people leave. Don't underestimate the value of links. If you engage in discussion and debate with other blogs, they'll eventually link back to you, getting you more readers. This increase in popularity should land you higher search engine results.

> *"A blog is a good way of writing up what you're passionate about, or keeping people updated…"*

Dave Stevenson

QUICK TIP

As your blog gathers steam and users, you'll find spammers try to use your comments box to drag people from your site to their promises of cheap prescription drugs or free iPhones. To avoid this, consider installing a *Captcha* – a box on your site that gets people to recognise a few characters of text and enter them into a text box, proving they're human.

>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Maintenance scripts

Christopher Brennan gets under the bonnet to tame the Mac

>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

As a Mac man I get asked related questions all the time. Especially at family gatherings. At weddings, birthdays and funerals I'm the one in the family that all the new Mac switchers know. This is mainly because my mum has a copy of *MacFormat* with her at all times. She shows people my picture on this very page and tells family members that I'm in charge of Apple.

The question is...

However, I do seem to be fielding many more questions about Macs, iPhones and iPods than ever before and this can only be a good thing for Apple. Anecdotal as this evidence clearly is a few years ago I was 'that bloke who doesn't use a PC' and now I'm a 'relative with benefits'. One question, I was asked was if it was wise to leave a Mac on overnight?

Each evening your Mac runs through some basic maintenance tasks, usually in the small hours, but if you put your Mac to sleep or even shut it down overnight then these tasks don't get done. Now the first thing to understand is that if these tasks don't get done your Mac isn't going to melt. However, it's not going to help if all those temporary files don't get deleted as they should. In extreme cases the log file can become very large and slow your system down.

Happily, you can very easily check when the maintenance scripts were last run and even run them yourself whenever you choose. Fire up *Terminal* and type:

```
ls -al /var/log/*.out
```

The resulting output will show you when the daily, monthly and weekly maintenance scripts were last run. Yes, daily, monthly and then weekly, why that way? Erm… for strictly technical reasons, presumably.

So, if you run the command and find that your maintenance scripts haven't been run in a while you need to run them manually. Again, there's a simple method. In the same *Terminal* window, or a new one – whichever takes your fancy, type:

```
sudo periodic daily weeklymonthly
```

and press ⏎.

You'll need to enter your administrator password and then press ⏎ again. When the job has finished *Terminal* will simply return to the ready state. If you would like to observe the fruits of your labour run the **ls -al /var/log/*.out** maintenance script again and check the date and time.

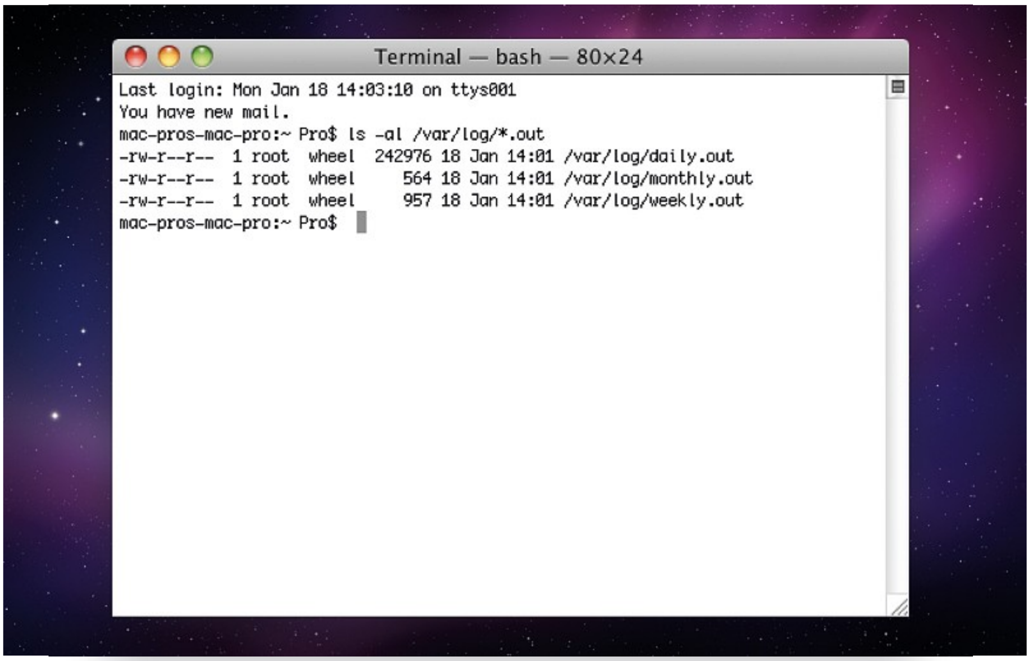
> *"If you're averse to opening Terminal there are a few applications available that give you access to the maintenance scripts…"*

If you're averse to opening *Terminal* there are a few applications available that give you access to the maintenance scripts. Try *Cocktail* (**www.maintain.se/cocktail**), it does cost $15, but you get much more than access to maintenance scripts. If you're still not happy tinkering inside the brains of your Mac you can set *Cocktail* to run its processes automatically. However, the interface is fairly simple and there's a good online support site (covering the last three Mac OS X releases) to help.

And so to bed

But, I still haven't answered the question of whether I leave my Mac on at night. Well, I usually turn my Macs off and run these scripts manually every now and again, so yes you should, but if you want to leave them on, then that's fine too. Being aware that the maintenance scripts are more important.

And just in case you're wondering, no I don't get free stuff from Apple and I don't have Steve Jobs telephone number. If you meet my mother though, please don't tell her that. ●



```
Last login: Mon Jan 18 14:03:10 on ttys001
You have new mail.
mac-pros-mac-pro:~ Pro$ ls -al /var/log/*.out
-rw-r--r--  1 root  wheel  242976 18 Jan 14:01 /var/log/daily.out
-rw-r--r--  1 root  wheel     564 18 Jan 14:01 /var/log/monthly.out
-rw-r--r--  1 root  wheel     957 18 Jan 14:01 /var/log/weekly.out
mac-pros-mac-pro:~ Pro$ 
```

Use Terminal to see if your Mac has run its maintenance scripts recently.

MiLi® Power Skin

Works with iPhone

Introducing the worlds thinnest Power Skin for the iphone 3G & 3Gs. Not only can it's rechargeable battery extend your iPhone's life to almost double, it also boasts the full protection of a hard-shell case; in a sleek, form-fitting design. A selection of colours are available to match your mood.

9:42 AM
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod
MiLi
MiLi

The worlds thinnest external battery case for iphone 3g & 3gs

choose your mood...

Play

Surf

Work

Download

Power

Capacity: 1200mAh(Li-Pol)

Product Compatibility: iPhone* 3G, 3GⓈ
Standby Time: Up to 230 hours

Talk Time: Up to 3.9 hours on 3G
Internet Use: Up to 3.9 hours on 3G

Audio Play: Up to 19 hours
Video Play: Up to 5.4 hours

Available now visit:
www.powerskin.co.uk

t: 0844 288 0844 e: info@powerskin.co.uk

powerskin

Add a Mail notifier

Improve workflow with system-wide windows for glancing at incoming email

»KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mail, Mac OS X 10.3+, Herald (10.6), Mail.appetizer (10.3-10.5), MiniMail (10.5+) or GrowlMail and Growl (10.5+)

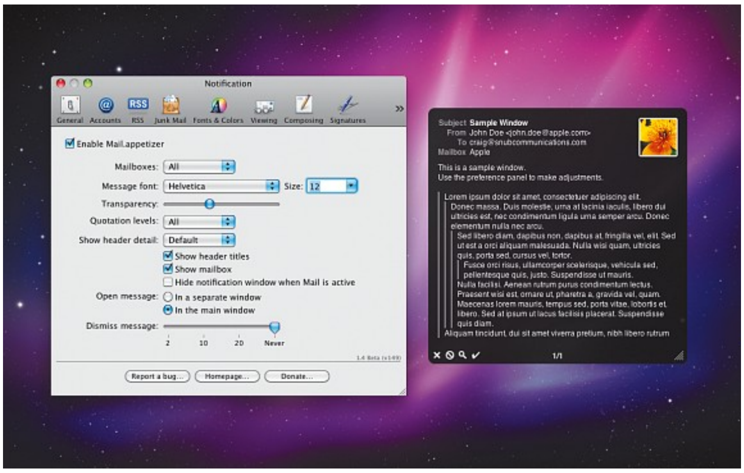
»ON THE DISC

Find some apps here on the disc.

One of the problems of always being connected to the internet is that it's easy to get distracted. With various online applications and services demanding you interact with them throughout the day, your attention can quickly wander, and before you know it an hour's gone by.

Email is one of the worst things for this, and that's partly down to Apple's minimalism when it comes to email notification. Some email clients, such as *Microsoft Entourage*, provide a system-wide notification window that pops up in the corner of your screen when new email arrives. Within the window you're given an overview of the incoming email, which consists of the sender and the subject line, and you can then make the decision whether or not to open the email itself and read what you've been sent. By comparison, *Apple Mail* merely updates its Dock icon badge – so you know how many unread emails you have at any one time, but have no idea what they are.

Seconds lost


Notification

☑ Enable Mail.appetizer
Mailboxes: All
Message font: Helvetica Size: 12
Transparency:
Quotation levels: All
Show header detail: Default
☑ Show header titles
☑ Show mailbox
☐ Hide notification window when Mail is active
Open message: ○ In a separate window
● In the main window
Dismiss message: 2 10 20 Never
1.4 Beta (v149)

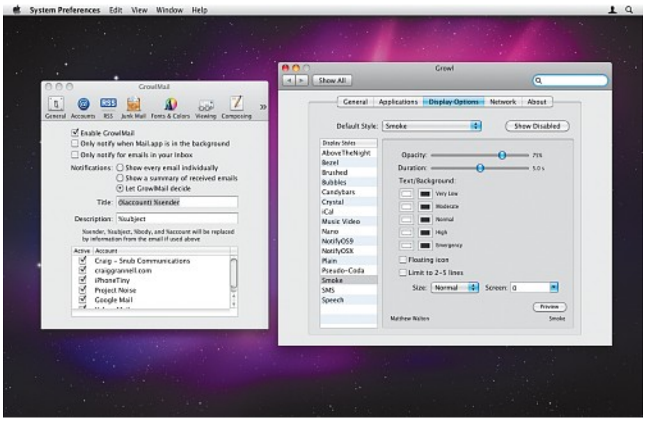
Subject Sample Window
From John Doe <john.doe@apple.com>
To craig@snubcommunications.com
Mailbox Apple

This is a sample window.
Use the preference panel to make adjustments.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit.
Donec massa. Duis molestie, urna at lacinia iaculis, libero dui ultricies est, nec condimentum ligula urna semper arcu. Donec elementum nulla nec arcu.
Sed libero diam, dapibus non, dapibus at, fringilla vel, elit. Sed ut est a orci aliquam malesuada. Nulla wisi quam, ultricies quis, porta sed, cursus vel, tortor.
Fusce orci risus, ullamcorper scelerisque, vehicula sed, pellentesque quis, justo. Suspendisse ut mauris.
Nulla facilisi. Aenean rutrum purus condimentum lectus. Praesent wisi est, ornare ut, pharetra a, gravida vel, quam. Maecenas lorem mauris, tempus sed, porta vitae, lobortis et, libero. Sed at ipsum ut lacus facilisis placerat. Suspendisse quis diam.
Aliquam tincidunt, dui sit amet viverra pretium, nibh libero rutrum
1/1

If you're not yet running Snow Leopard, Mail.appetizer is the notifier of choice.

The problem from a 'getting things done' perspective is that you never know how important the next email is going to be. If you're waiting for a specific email and a new one arrives, *Mail* 'forces' you to check the app itself to see new messages. At best, seconds are lost in switching to the app and deleting an email or two; however, many people find themselves regularly sucked into a kind of email black hole, wasting time dealing with things that would have better been dealt with later. But by installing a handy third-party add-on, you can bring proper, usable notification to *Mail* – and it needn't cost you anything.



GrowlMail

☑ Enable GrowlMail
☐ Only notify when Mail.app is in the background
☐ Only notify for emails in your inbox
Notifications: ○ Show every email individually
○ Show a summary of received emails
● Let GrowlMail decide
Title: (%account) %sender
Description: %subject
%sender, %subject, %body, and %account will be replaced by information from the email if used above

Active	Account
☑	Craig – Snub Communications
☑	craiggrannell.com
☑	iPhoneTiny
☑	Project Noise
☑	Google Mail

Growl

Default Style: Smoke

Display Styles
AboveTheNight
Bezel
Brushed
Bubbles
Candybars
Crystal
iCal
Music Video
Nano
NotifyOS9
NotifyOSX
Plain
Pseudo-Coda
Smoke
SMS
Speech

Opacity: 75%
Duration: 5.0 s
Text/Background:
Very Low
Moderate
Normal
High
Emergency
☐ Floating icon
☐ Limit to 2-5 lines
Size: Normal Screen: 0
Matthew Walton Smoke

System-wide notification tool Growl has an add-on for Mail, GrowlMail.

As already noted, the point behind mail notification is efficiency. The thinking is that *Mail* should stay hidden until you need to use it. This minimises distraction, reduces the threat of procrastination, and enables you to get on with your work, rather than dipping in and out of email every few minutes. On the following page, four different add-ons are explored, and Macs with Panther through to Snow Leopard are covered by at least one app.

> "The problem from a 'getting things done' perspective is that you never know how important the next email is going to be"

However, you can do more to make your email experience efficient. In *Mail*'s **General** preferences, you can reduce the frequency with which *Mail* checks for messages, if you can get away with doing so. Also, if you regularly communicate with specific people for work purposes, consider creating a smart mailbox to contain messages from them and target notifiers at it. That way, you'll see (and read, depending on your choice of notification add-on) your most important messages at a glance and as soon as they arrive, but other email won't distract you, and will be held in *Mail* until you have enough time to deal with a bunch of messages in one go.

The add-ons covered in this tutorial are free, apart from *MiniMail*, which costs $12.95 (about £8) – although the other projects accept donations if you enjoy using a particular product. For more information about the notifiers, visit the following websites: *Mail.appetizer* (http://bronsonbeta.com/mailappetizer/); *Growl* (http://growl.info) and *GrowlMail* (http://growl.info/growlmail/); *MiniMail* (http://indev.ca/MiniMail.html); and finally, *Herald* (http://erikhinterbichler.com/software/herald/).
Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Set up your mail notification add-on of choice

01 Installing add-ons

The *Mail* add-on/bundles shown here all have installers, and options are set via panes in *Mail's* preferences. Before installation, quit *Mail* and ensure the add-on is compatible with your version of Mac OS X. Note: *GrowlMail* also requires *Growl* to be installed.

Add-ons are mostly well-behaved, but install many and clashes can happen, so we suggest using only one notifier. To quickly test several, you can use uninstallers, but it's quicker to manually manage bundles. Quit *Mail* and go to **~/Library/Mail/**. You should see folders named **Bundles** and **Bundles (disabled)**. If the latter doesn't exist, create it. Drag items from **Bundles** to **Bundles (disabled)** to disable them next time *Mail's* launched.

In rare cases (notably after system upgrades), add-ons might fail to work or install. If so, quit *Mail*, open *Terminal*, type **defaults write com.apple.mail EnableBundles -bool YES** and press ↩. If things still don't work, type a second line in *Terminal* (followed by ↩): **defaults write com.apple.mail BundleCompatibilityVersion X** (replacing **X** with **4** for Snow Leopard, **3** for Leopard and **2** for Tiger).

02 Mail.appetizer

A bare-bones *Mail.appetizer* exists for Mac OS X 10.3, but more recent versions offer more functionality. At the time of writing, *Mail.appetizer* for Snow Leopard is in development. Avoid it until an official release arrives, but if you've an older system, it's the best notifier.

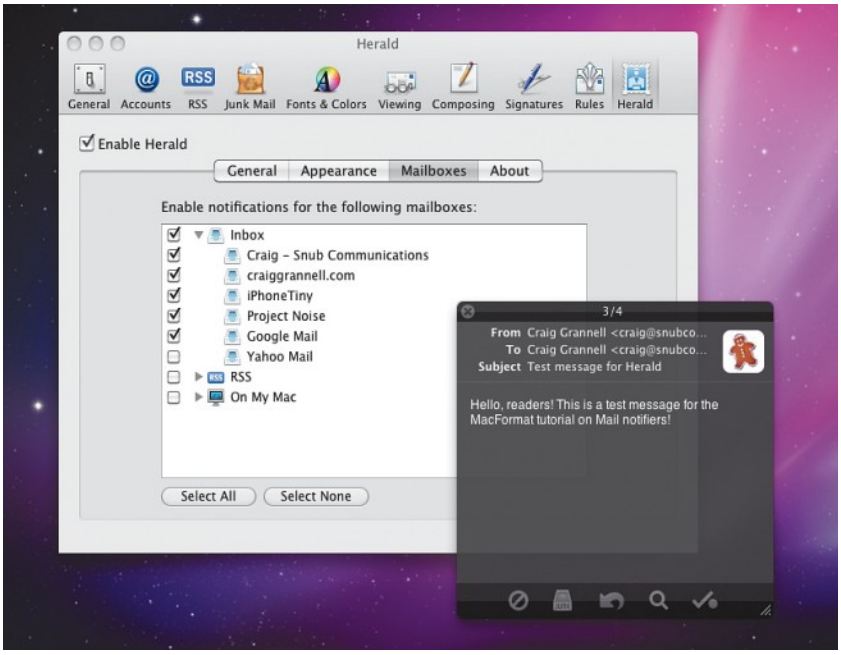
Post-install, enable *Mail.appetizer* via *Mail's* preferences, and use the **Mailboxes** menu to define mailboxes you want notifications for. Options also exist for amending the preview window's behaviour and look. Change settings and the preview updates accordingly. The window can be resized and positioned, ready for use – place it at the bottom-right of the screen, so it's not a distraction when new mail's received.

When new mail arrives, *Mail.appetizer's* window appears and cycles through messages. Mouse over the window to 'pause' cycling. You can then use the buttons at the window's foot. In turn, these close the preview window, delete the displayed email, open the message in *Mail*, and mark the email as read. The **Open message** preference determines whether messages opened from the preview window appear in a separate *Mail* window or *Mail's* **Message Viewer**.

03 Herald

Herald is a *Mail.appetizer* clone for Snow Leopard, created because *Mail.appetizer* for Mac OS X 10.6 was taking so long to appear. After installing *Mail.appetizer*, enable it in *Mail's* preferences. Tabs provide access to options: **General** has settings for mail viewing and preview-window hiding; **Appearance** enables you to change how the preview window looks; and **Mailboxes** sets which mailboxes *Herald* previews email from.

In use, *Herald* works like *Mail.appetizer* - its window enables you to read incoming mail and perform actions. In turn, these are: **delete**, **junk**, **reply**, **view** and **mark as read**. But there are important differences: *Herald's* timer doesn't work well, so set **Automatically hide notifications** to **Never**; hide *Mail* and it reappears when *Herald's* preview window appears, so minimise *Mail's* **Message Viewer** to the Dock instead of hiding the app; and there's no live preview for *Herald's* appearance, so set its position when new email arrives.



☑ Enable Herald

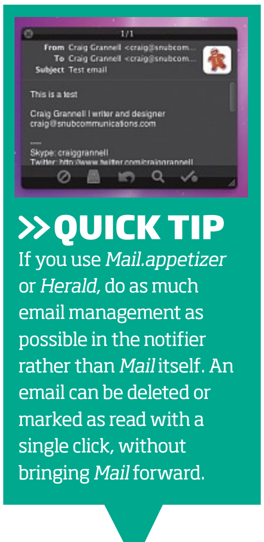
Enable notifications for the following mailboxes:

☑ Inbox
  ☑ Craig – Snub Communications
  ☑ craiggrannell.com
  ☑ iPhoneTiny
  ☑ Project Noise
  ☑ Google Mail
  ☐ Yahoo Mail
☐ RSS
☐ On My Mac

From Craig Grannell <craig@snubco...
To Craig Grannell <craig@snubco...
Subject Test message for Herald

Hello, readers! This is a test message for the MacFormat tutorial on Mail notifiers!

Herald provides Snow Leopard users with a Mail.appetizer-like notifier.



From Craig Grannell <craig@snubcom...
To Craig Grannell <craig@snubcom...
Subject Test email

This is a test

Craig Grannell | writer and designer
craig@snubcommunications.com

--
Skype: craiggrannell
Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/craiggrannell

QUICK TIP

If you use *Mail.appetizer* or *Herald*, do as much email management as possible in the notifier rather than *Mail* itself. An email can be deleted or marked as read with a single click, without bringing *Mail* forward.

04 GrowlMail

If you've system-wide notifier *Growl* installed, *GrowlMail* enables you to use it for *Mail*. Via the *GrowlMail* pane in *Mail's* preferences, set how notifications work and which accounts you want *Growl* to show notifications for. On receiving new email, the sender and subject for each will be shown in preview windows, which 'stack' from your screen's top-right. *Growl's* appearance is amended using the **Growl** *System Preferences* pane.

05 MiniMail

Unlike other notifiers, temporarily shown when new *Mail* arrives, *MiniMail's* designed to be permanently on-screen, much like the *iTunes* **Mini Player**. After installation, use *MiniMail's* preferences to set whether double-clicking messages unzooms the mini window or shows a single message window. A checkbox also enables you to set *MiniMail* to appear on top of other windows. In use, click a **Mail Viewer** zoom button (the green one) to switch the window between standard and mini modes. In mini mode, you get previews of unread mail and use the arrows to move between messages. The action button at the window's top-right provides access to all your common *Mail* commands. ●

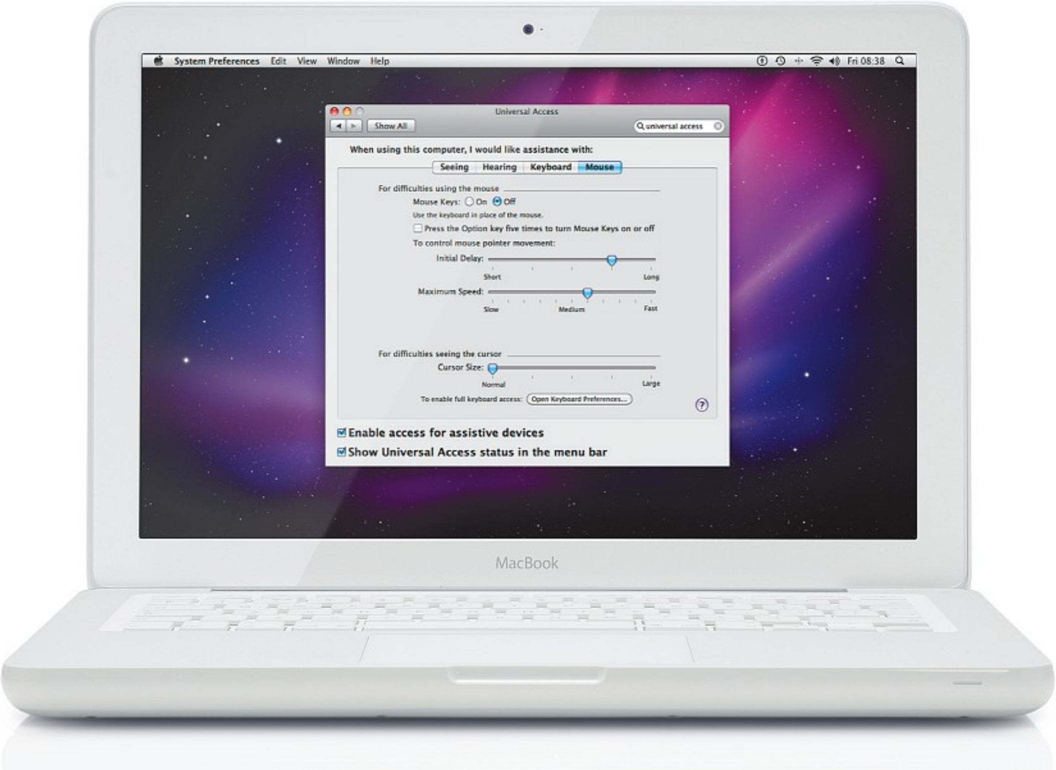
Because the image is everything...

PhotoRadar.com
The home of digital photography

Use Universal Access

Get to grips with accessibility for a more productive life on your Mac

Accessibility is a big selling point for Apple. Its website goes into great detail to show how easy it is for anyone to use a Mac or an iPhone/iPod for that matter. Yes, there really is no excuse not to use an Apple product these days but that's only half the story. These functions are designed to augment the experience of computer users with disabilities and are built into every single Mac and, as of the latest refresh, most of the iPods and iPhones on the market. Because of this, Apple has found itself with a legion of fans who are users with visual, hearing or physical impairments.



Universal Access

Show All

universal access

When using this computer, I would like assistance with:

Seeing | Hearing | Keyboard | **Mouse**

For difficulties using the mouse

Mouse Keys: ○ On ● Off

Use the keyboard in place of the mouse.

☐ Press the Option key five times to turn Mouse Keys on or off

To control mouse pointer movement:

Initial Delay: Short – Long

Maximum Speed: Slow – Medium – Fast

For difficulties seeing the cursor

Cursor Size: Normal – Large

To enable full keyboard access: Open Keyboard Preferences...

☑ Enable access for assistive devices

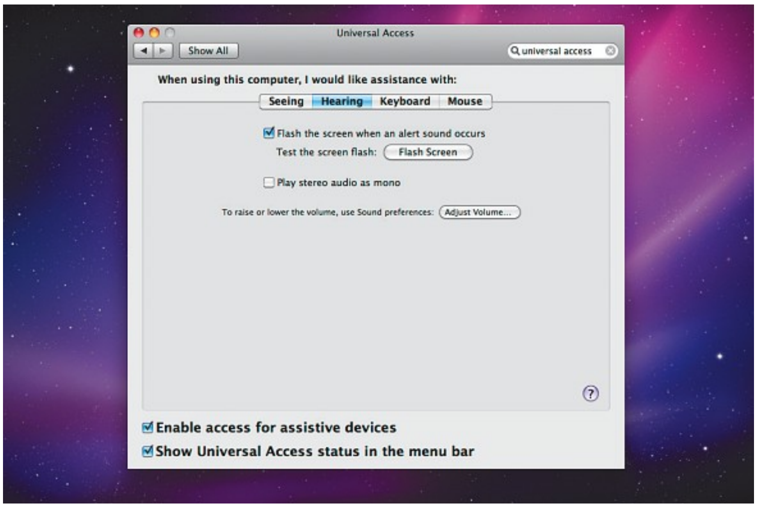
☑ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

You'll never lose your cursor again if you make it bigger.

Time for Universal Access

Most people though have probably never even noticed the accessibility features tucked into Mac OS X, much less given a moment's thought to how they can be used. But really, why not? After all, they're free and easy to set up. They're a vital part of every Mac and interface seamlessly with your user experience, whether you're using *Safari* to check out eBay or creating that special *Keynote* presentation. You don't need a special code or for the stars to be correctly aligned in order to make use of these options. Unlike Windows, you don't need to buy third-party software or even install anything extra. While it might take time to use all these functions in a way that makes your life easier, the amount spent tinkering with the settings will be well worth it. Even better, we're going to show you how to make the most of all of them, from Alex and VoiceOver to Zoom. Ready?

Ours is a world of multi-tasking, memos, email, lists and Getting Things Done. Productivity and efficiency are the big buzzwords for 2010. It's all about doing things now (or, preferably, yesterday) with the minimum level of difficulty and the maximum level of productivity, whether you're at work or at home. Time is precious, after all. This can be anything from checking your latest essay to browsing the web to scrutinising those holiday snaps.



Universal Access

Show All

universal access

When using this computer, I would like assistance with:

Seeing | **Hearing** | Keyboard | Mouse

☑ Flash the screen when an alert sound occurs

Test the screen flash: Flash Screen

☐ Play stereo audio as mono

To raise or lower the volume, use Sound preferences: Adjust Volume...

☑ Enable access for assistive devices

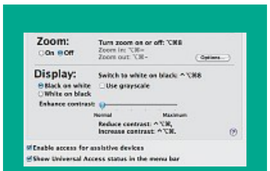
☑ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

The Hearing settings are devoted to visual cues such as a screen flash.

Being of service

How can your Mac help? Well this is where Universal Access comes in. This is the collective name Apple has given its system preferences, which change how you can use your Mac, from making your mouse easier to see to letting you know when some aspect of your system, be it an Instant Message application or a system alert, wants your attention. Aimed at any Mac users who have visual, hearing or physical impairments, Universal Access goes a long way in trying to make the Mac even easier to use than normal and there's no reason why you can't benefit from them either.

First off, where exactly are all these options hidden? In the »



Zoom: ○ On ● Off

Turn zoom on or off: ⌥⌘8

Zoom in: ⌥⌘=

Zoom out: ⌥⌘-

Options...

Display: ● Black on white ○ White on black

Switch to white on black: ^⌥⌘8

☐ Use grayscale

Enhance contrast: Normal – Maximum

Reduce contrast: ^⌥⌘,

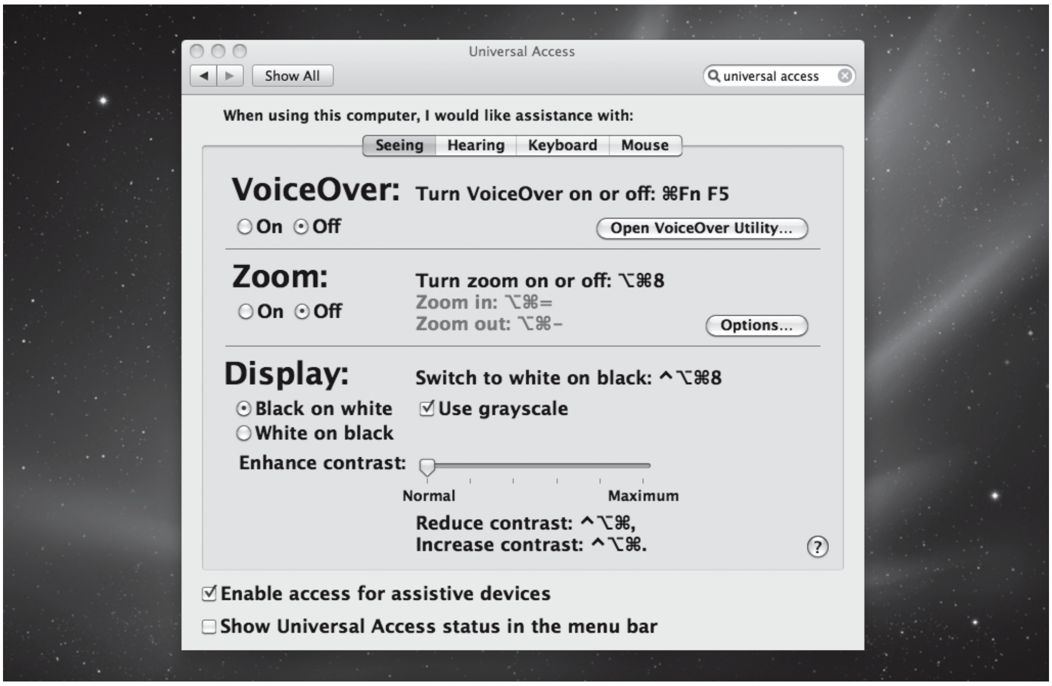
Increase contrast: ^⌥⌘.

☑ Enable access for assistive devices

☑ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

»QUICK TIP

When configuring *Universal Access*, tick **Show Universal Access in the Menu Bar** in the **Seeing** tab as it will save time later on. An icon will appear that will allow you quick access to the main **Universal Access** menu as well as showing all the features that are on.


Universal Access

When using this computer, I would like assistance with:

VoiceOver: Turn VoiceOver on or off: ⌘Fn F5

○ On ● Off

Zoom: Turn zoom on or off: ⌥⌘8

Zoom in: ⌥⌘=

Zoom out: ⌥⌘-

○ On ● Off

Display: Switch to white on black: ^⌥⌘8

● Black on white

○ White on black

☑ Use grayscale

Enhance contrast: Normal – Maximum

Reduce contrast: ^⌥⌘,

Increase contrast: ^⌥⌘.

☑ Enable access for assistive devices

☐ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

One of the options in Seeing lets you turn the screen greyscale.

logical place, though they might not be immediately obvious. Tucked away under the **System** tab of *System Preferences* is **Universal Access**. This is the hub of all Mac OS X's accessibility features and it is split into handy sections: **Seeing**, **Hearing**, **Keyboard** and **Mouse**.

Seeing is believing

The **Seeing** tab is probably the most comprehensive and the most useful when it comes to productivity. At its heart is **VoiceOver**, a utility which turns text into speech. The latest version, 3.0, includes the most realistic voice yet, **Alex**. **VoiceOver** itself is normally used by visually impaired people who can't see the keyboard as **Alex** repeats whatever button is pressed. But that's not all. Once configured, it can be used in numerous ways, such as reading text aloud to letting you know when someone on *Skype* or *iChat* wants your attention.

> *"The Seeing tab is probably the most comprehensive and useful when it comes to productivity…"*

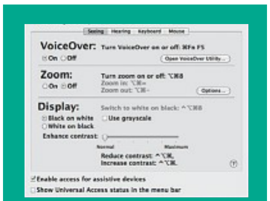
For example, say you're making toast for breakfast and you want to read a news story – obviously you don't want breakfast to burn, so configure **VoiceOver** to speak highlighted text out loud when you press a combination of buttons. That way you can multitask and **Alex** reads out the story while you watch the toaster. Even better, the more he reads, the more realistic he sounds.

Configuring this couldn't be simpler either. Go into System Preferences > Speech > Text to Speech and check **Click selected text when key is pressed**. Then set the key using the dialogue box. It's good to have a combination of buttons that you won't unintentionally press so we recommend ctrl and Z as a good choice as the buttons are next to each other and not already tied to another function. For example, ⌘ and most letters are usually already assigned to a function, such as **cut**, **paste**, **save** and **load**. If you do need **VoiceOver** to stop reading, for whatever reason, just press your chosen buttons again to stop **Alex** in his tracks.

> *"Obviously you don't want breakfast to burn, so configure VoiceOver to speak highlighted text out loud…"*

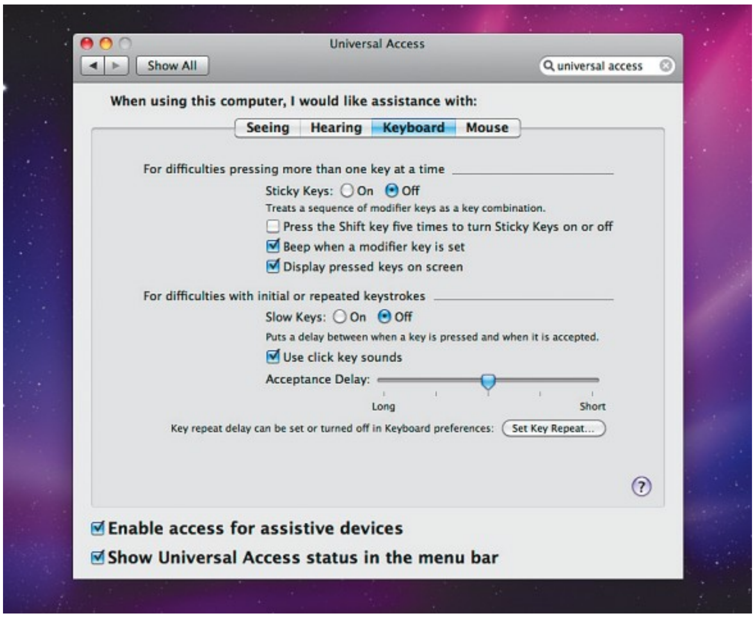
While in this dialogue box, you might also want to open the **Check the Date & Time Preferences** dialogue and go into the clock menu. This will not only make the clock appear in your menu bar (we recommend setting it as digital over analogue), forcing you to be more aware of the time, but **Alex** will also notify you at the top of the hour. If you need to plan your time, this gives you a handy reminder and, after a while, you'll become much more conscious of the passage of time.

Once all this is done, it's just a matter of highlighting the text and away you go. If you're writing an essay or a report then this is also a



»QUICK TIP

Enabling **VoiceOver** might sound annoying but it's actually rather useful. For example, you could use it to help a young child associate a word with its sound when learning to read. Adults can also find it a handy tool if they are learning to touch type.


Universal Access

When using this computer, I would like assistance with:

For difficulties pressing more than one key at a time

Sticky Keys: ○ On ● Off

Treats a sequence of modifier keys as a key combination.

☐ Press the Shift key five times to turn Sticky Keys on or off

☑ Beep when a modifier key is set

☑ Display pressed keys on screen

For difficulties with initial or repeated keystrokes

Slow Keys: ○ On ● Off

Puts a delay between when a key is pressed and when it is accepted.

☑ Use click key sounds

Acceptance Delay: Long – Short

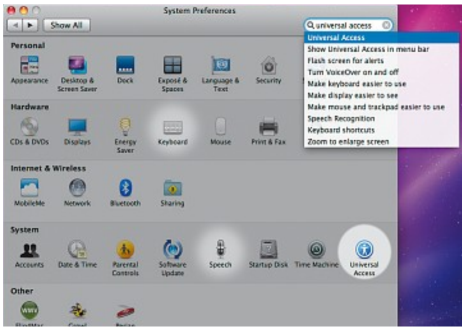
Key repeat delay can be set or turned off in Keyboard preferences:

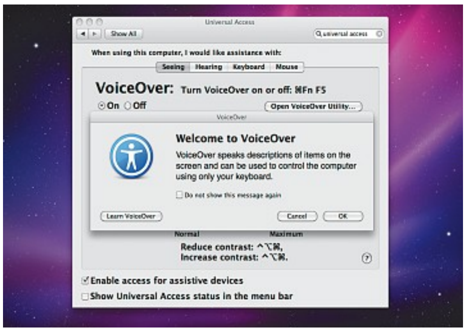
☑ Enable access for assistive devices

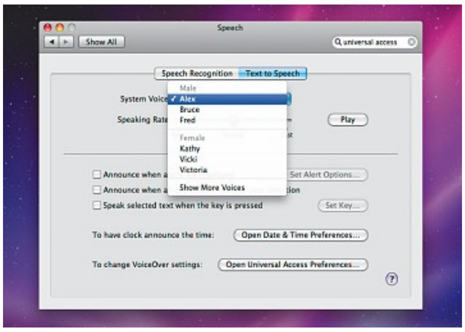
☑ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

The Keyboard settings allow you to make keys sticky so you don't repeat letters.

HOW TO / Get to know Universal Access


System Preferences
Show All
universal access
Universal Access
Show Universal Access in menu bar
Flash screen for alerts
Turn VoiceOver on and off
Make keyboard easier to use
Make display easier to see
Make mouse and trackpad easier to use
Speech Recognition
Keyboard shortcuts
Zoom to enlarge screen
Personal
Hardware
Internet & Wireless
System
Other


Universal Access
When using this computer, I would like assistance with:
Seeing
Hearing
Keyboard
Mouse
VoiceOver: Turn VoiceOver on or off: ⌘Fn F5
Welcome to VoiceOver
Cancel
OK
Enable access for assistive devices
Show Universal Access status in the menu bar


Speech
Speech Recognition
Text to Speech
System Voice
Alex
Bruce
Fred
Kathy
Vicki
Victoria
Show More Voices
Play
Open Date & Time Preferences...
Open Universal Access Preferences...

01 Getting started

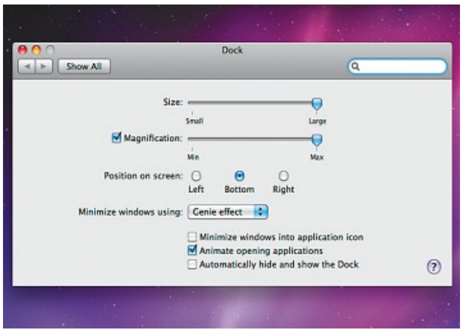
First off, start by going to **Universal Access**. You can find it on the far right of the **System** tab. You might also want to note **Speech** and **Date & Time** as aspects of **Universal Access** overlap into them.

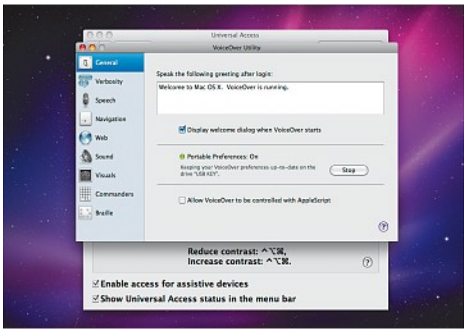
02 Enable VoiceOver

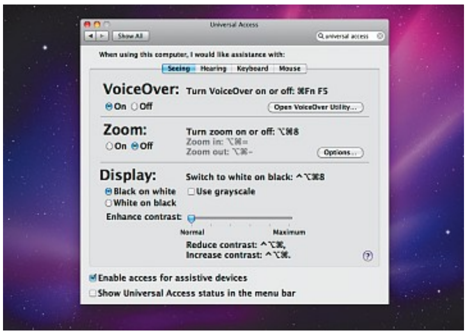
Even though **VoiceOver** is the most complex aspect of **Universal Access** it's really easy to set up. When you turn it on for the first time, an audio dialogue will guide you through it and help you set up the options.

03 Customise everything

The important thing to remember is it's your Mac so use the options you think will help your productivity, be it a talking clock, reading aloud or the zoom function. The trick is to play around with the options and see what works.


Dock
Show All
Size:
Small
Large
Magnification:
Min
Max
Position on screen:
Left
Bottom
Right
Minimize windows using:
Genie effect
Minimize windows into application icon
Animate opening applications
Automatically hide and show the Dock


VoiceOver Utility
General
Verbosity
Speech
Navigation
Web
Sound
Visuals
Commanders
Braille
Speak the following greeting after login:
Display welcome dialog when VoiceOver starts
Allow VoiceOver to be controlled with AppleScript
Enable access for assistive devices
Show Universal Access status in the menu bar


Universal Access
When using this computer, I would like assistance with:
Seeing
Hearing
Keyboard
Mouse
VoiceOver:
Zoom:
Display:
Black on white
White on black
Use grayscale
Enhance contrast:
Enable access for assistive devices
Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

04 Customise your desktop

To make life on your Mac even easier, add **Universal Access** to your menu bar, as well as configuring the clock to digital. You can also make the mouse cursor bigger or set the Dock to magnify when you mouse over it.

05 Save your settings

You can save your **VoiceOver** settings onto a USB key and transfer them to any Mac. As for the rest of the settings, why not take screengrabs (using ⌘, ⇧ and 3) as reference to configure other computers you use?

06 Learn the shortcuts

All of the options such as **VoiceOver** and zoom come with handy, easy-to-remember shortcuts, which means you can easily toggle them on and off. All of these are listed in the **Universal Access** box and they are easy to learn.

great way to proof your work as it forces you to take another view on what you've written. Another good use is getting **Alex** to read phone numbers as you dial, especially if your phone isn't as close to the computer as you'd like it to be.

Hearing voices

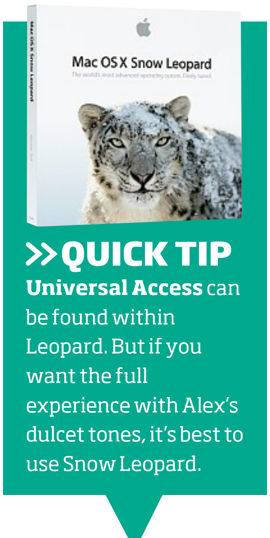
It is worth mentioning though that **Alex** is not the only voice on offer, though none of the others have the same polished and human-sounding feel. There's a range of male and female voices, some sound straight out of an old sci-fi show, but there's also a great selection of novelty voices too. You can also customise the voices themselves from the tone and pitch, as well as altering the speed as well.

Other sections under the **Seeing** tab also allow you to change the contrast of your screen to greyscale or high contrast (white on black). This can be handy to use if you need a fresh perspective after hours staring at the same screen or don't want the distraction of the colourful dock. It's really a matter of personal preference but worth highlighting all the same.

> *"There's a range of voices, some sound sci-fi, but there's also a great selection of novelty voices too"*

Zooming around

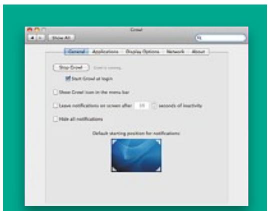
The other major function of the **Seeing** tab is the **Zoom** function, which does what it says and zooms into the screen. This is something everyone should switch on as it sits in the background and can be enabled by pressing just three keys (⌘, ⌥ and either + or - to zoom in or out). The zoom function is an excellent way of getting up close and personal with images or just making text that bit bigger without having to manually change the font. Again this can be a


Mac OS X Snow Leopard

QUICK TIP

Universal Access can be found within Leopard. But if you want the full experience with Alex's dulcet tones, it's best to use Snow Leopard.

»



QUICK TIP

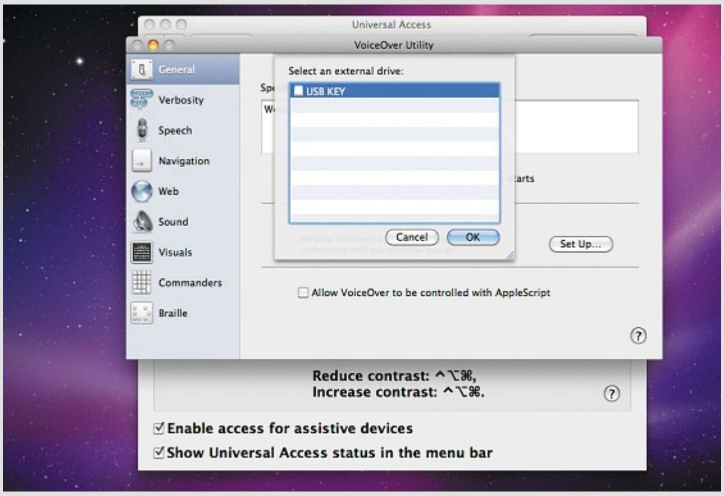
All the **Universal Access** features work natively with first party programs like *iWork* and *Safari*. They also work with third-party programs such as *Firefox* and Twitter clients, sometimes to a lesser degree. If you haven't already, it's worth installing *Growl* (**http://growl.info**), which will then notify you about system announcements.

HOW TO / Take your settings with you

These days most people will have more than one computer. There could be a Mac at home, a work computer or two and maybe a laptop too. Obviously, that's quite a few computers and manually setting each of them can often take time.

As this is mainly a feature about making the most of such a precious resource, we couldn't not tell you about a way to save some of it. Fortunately Apple has ensured you can take your **VoiceOver** settings with you so that's one less thing to configure. **VoiceOver** itself is the one thing that, if you choose to use it, can take the longest to configure. There's little things like the kind of text, which can be displayed in either a text or braille caption panel. You can also tinker with the pitch and tone of your chosen voice (**Alex** is just the latest of a number of options) and decide whether punctuation is spoken.

So how do we do this? First of all, find a spare USB thumb drive. It doesn't need to have a particularly massive capacity and they can usually be purchased quite cheaply online. Find a spare USB port on your main Mac (such as one on the keyboard for easy access) and go to Universal Access > Seeing and open **VoiceOver Utility**. This is the heart and soul of **VoiceOver 3.0** and one of the options is **Portal Preferences**. Select your drive and **VoiceOver** will transfer your settings over. Then it's just a matter of putting the USB in your other Macs and a dialogue box will prompt you to use the settings.

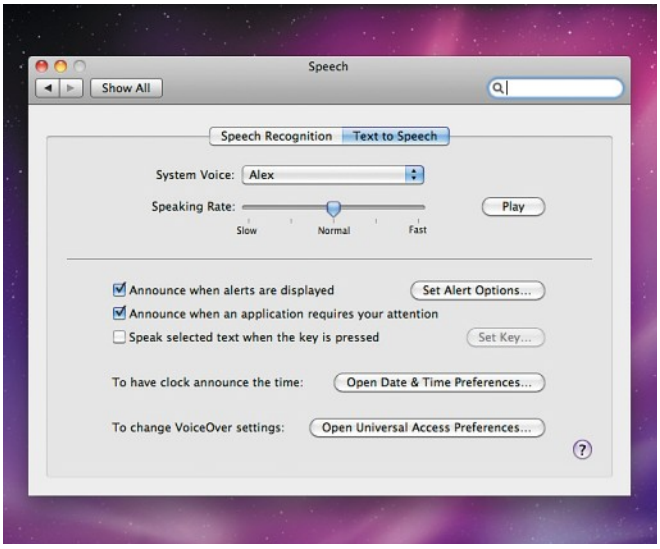


☐ Allow VoiceOver to be controlled with AppleScript

☑ Enable access for assistive devices

☑ Show Universal Access status in the menu bar

Modify permissions and prevent all users from accessing a file or folder.



System Voice: Alex

Speaking Rate: Normal

☑ Announce when alerts are displayed

☑ Announce when an application requires your attention

☐ Speak selected text when the key is pressed

To have clock announce the time:

To change VoiceOver settings:

There are plenty of voices to choose from in VoiceOver, including Alex.

great tool if you're trying to read something online, especially late at night, or someone has sent you an email written in an 8-pt font (it does happen). Alternatively, you can also press ⌘ and +/- when using a web browser to enlarge the text (rather than the whole screen).

The other tabs focus on hearing and the keyboard and mouse and, in some ways, these are the more practical tabs. They include helpful options such as making the screen flash, as well as providing an audible cue when your Mac issues an alert as, for some people, visual cues sometimes work much better than an annoying noise that you will eventually learn to ignore anyway.

> *"Seconds have been lost squinting for the arrow, only to find it's been on the dock the entire time…"*

Keyboard and Mouse are really about personal preference and small practicalities. For example, every user, whether they have a Mac or a PC, will have at some point lost their mouse cursor. It's a sad fact of life as a computer user regardless of whether you have 20/20 or 6/20 vision. Precious seconds or even minutes have been lost squinting for that little arrow, only to find it's been hovering at the bottom of the screen, in a corner or on the dock or taskbar the entire time. Well Apple's got an answer for that.

In the Mouse dialogue, you'll notice there are lots of features designed to make the experience of a mouse much easier. You can change the blink but we're looking for Cursor Size right at the bottom. By moving the bar, you can make the cursor much easier to see. While we're on the subject, did you know you can also tinker around with the Dock as well? By clicking on the icon at the top left of the menu bar, selecting Dock > Dock Preferences, you will be able to magnify the Dock icons as well as altering their actual size. You won't see any change until you mouse over the icons, at which point they will magnify up to 200%.

Suit yourself

Many of these ideas are just that; suggestions for how to improve your Mac experience and your productivity. However, part of the whole experience is finding out what works for you. Don't like Alex? Try Agnes, Fred or – just for amusement – some of the novelty voices. Check out the step-by-step instructions on page 69 as we introduce you to Universal Access. There are more settings in *System Preferences* to help configure your Mac, look out for coverage of them in future issues of *MacFormat*.

Lesley Smith

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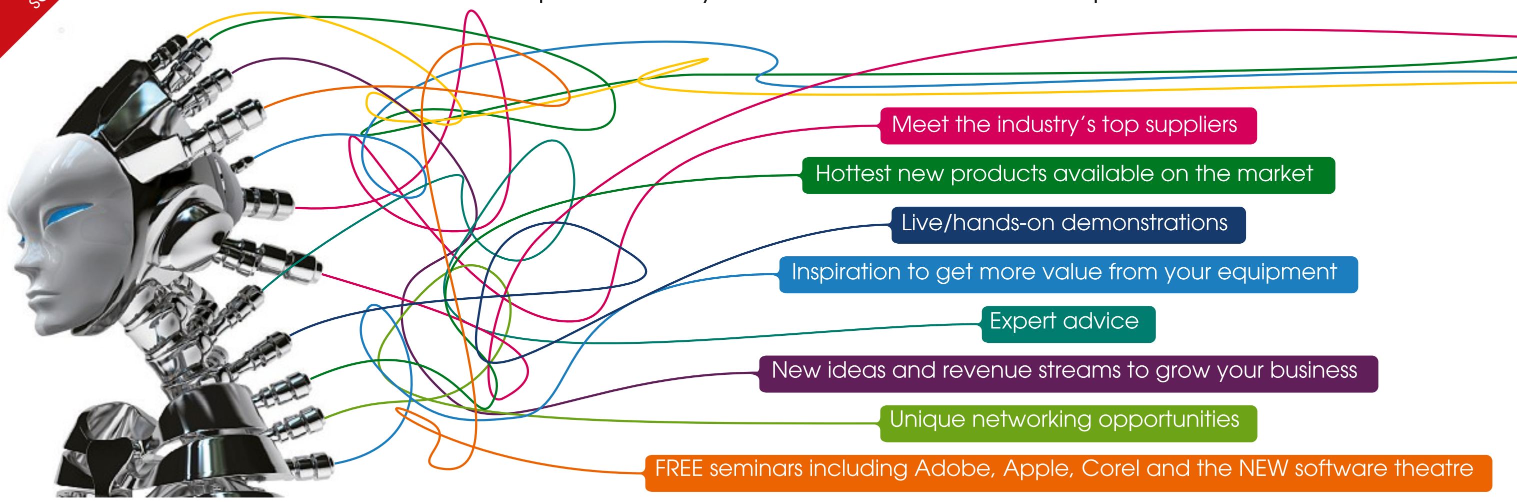

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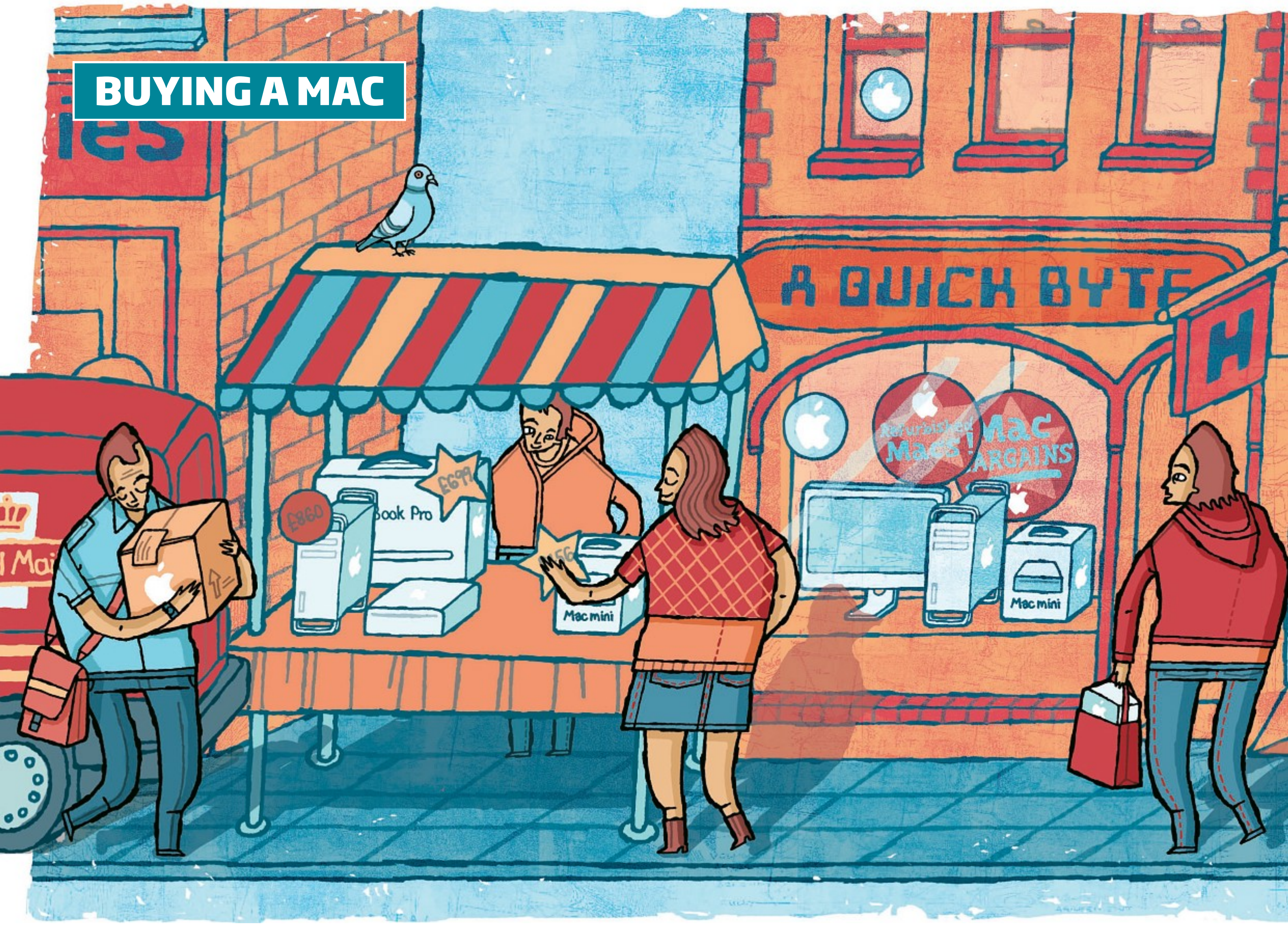


Cut the cost of

So many Macs, and so many ways to buy them. But which way to turn? **Adam Banks** finds out what you need to know to get the best deal

The Apple Store on Regent Street is the perfect symbol of the company and its products: it's gorgeous, shiny, enticing and impossible to ignore. But being in London, it's also a really inconvenient place to buy a computer. Luckily, there are many alternatives – Macs are available these days from a greater variety of outlets than ever before.

So where should you shop, what should you choose, how can you buy safely and – perhaps the most topical issue here – is there any way to shave a few quid off that exquisitely typeset Apple Store price tag? Wonder no more. We open the doors to the world of Mac retailing and invite you to browse…

Where to buy

Apple is unusual in selling its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online, on the high street or both.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. What seems weird at first glance is that Apple is competing for your custom against its own dealers. But according to Neil Saunders, Consulting Director at retail analysts Verdict Research (**www.verdict.co.uk**), everyone seems to win.

"Apple Stores are expensively fitted out and well staffed. They wouldn't make money outside big cities, so Apple couldn't attain the type of coverage it needs without an independent dealer network."

HALEY'S
John L
MAC PRO £1940
£1373
£510
£698
mac mini

buying a Mac

From the retailers' point of view, "in some ways, Apple Stores aren't even competition. They're as much a branding tool as a sales tool: people will go in and look around, use the Genius Bar, but may buy elsewhere. The two are symbiotic."

Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much, as we explain overleaf (see 'Why you won't get a discount'). Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. As Computer Warehouse's Jonathan Cole points out, "We can pioneer new products – things you won't find at the Apple Store." (CW has just opened a new 15,000 sq ft store in West London.)

Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

> *"By choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone answer your questions"*

There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax (as outlined on page 76, 'When the tax man is your friend'). If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **www.apple.com/uk/education/store**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having: for example, a dual-core 27-inch iMac lists for £1,295, compared to the regular price of £1,378. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. Find out more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay

»

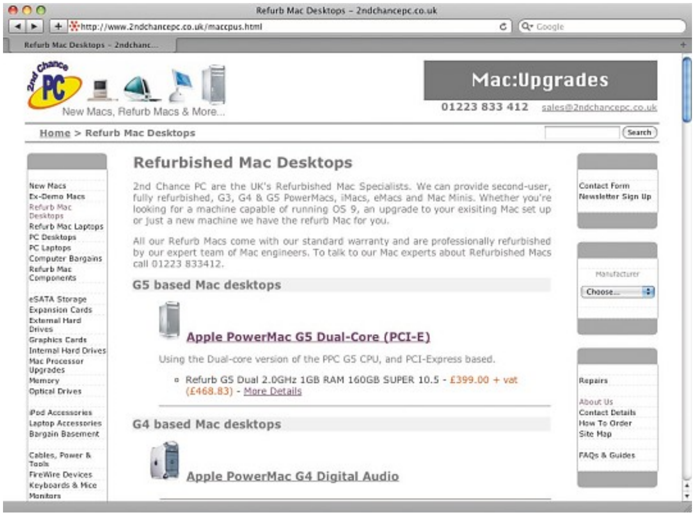
» WHY YOU WON'T GET A DISCOUNT...

When buying any kind of consumer electronics, from flat-screen televisions to printer inks, everyone knows that you can save a fortune by shopping around. High street stores sell way below 'suggested retail prices', and e-commerce sites can go even lower. However, search for any given Mac – or indeed an iPod, Time Capsule or Cinema Display – and you'll rarely find much more than a tenner off the original Apple Store price, online or offline, no matter where you take the time to look.

There are several reasons for this. One is that there simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares. "Apple is a fantastic brand," points out Verdict's Neil Saunders, "so people want to have it in their stores regardless of the price – it's a pull."

That desirability also means new Macs will sell without money-off gimmicks. "Apple won't flood the market – it wants to keep that price integrity stable." And because nobody except Apple makes equivalent hardware, the pressure from rivals driving prices down is less than with Windows-based PCs, which are often hard to distinguish from each other.

Don't despair, though: as we discover in these pages, there are several ways to make your Mac budget go a lot further. Read on to make the most of it.


Refurb Mac Desktops – 2ndchancepc.co.uk
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PC Laptops
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Graphics Cards
Internal Hard Drives
Mac Processor Upgrades
Memory
Optical Drives
iPod Accessories
Laptop Accessories
Bargain Basement
Cables, Power & Tools
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Online retailers can be a good source of deals on refurbished and older-spec systems.

less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins: www.cancomuk.com/clearance is a well-established example.

Slicing the Apple

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year and extendable up to three years via AppleCare. We could have had a 17-inch MacBook Pro for £1,659, £230 off the current price of £1,889.

Other sources of refurb Macs include www.2ndchancepc.co.uk, which has been in the business for a decade and is particularly good for older models at extremely low prices. We found a dual-core Power Mac G5, the immediate predecessor of the Mac Pro, for £468, and a G4 tower – ready to run both Mac OS X and legacy OS 9 (Classic) apps, which current Macs no longer support – at just £69. Computer Warehouse (www.computerwarehouse.co.uk) has recently moved into this market with its 'Mac scrappage' scheme, which accepts Macs as trade-ins that will then be resold from £99.

> *"Macs described as 'refurbished' are guaranteed for a full year. This can be extended to three years via AppleCare"*

Then, of course, there's eBay (www.ebay.co.uk). Search for 'mac' in the Computing category, or be more specific. Alternatively, search the whole site to spot miscategorised machines that nobody else is bidding on. To gauge the going rate, tick 'Completed listings' under 'Show only' in the left-hand column and see what people have paid for recently sold systems. You'll find a wide variation, and catching a bargain often comes down to luck; don't be tempted to over-bid – there will always be more kit to come along.

Auctioneering

All the usual eBay tips apply, such as checking the seller's feedback, and you need to read the description very carefully: many used Macs are sold in non-working or damaged condition, or with different features or Mac OS versions than you might expect. Take your time and you'll find the right deal for you.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the thorny question of which Mac to pick. When Steve Jobs returned to Apple in the late 1990s, he ridiculed the bewildering array of products and quickly whittled it down. Since then, it's crept back up. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Within each range are several standard models, plus built-to-order options that add up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at http://store.apple.com/uk

SALE!
Only £69
BARGAIN!
Only £468

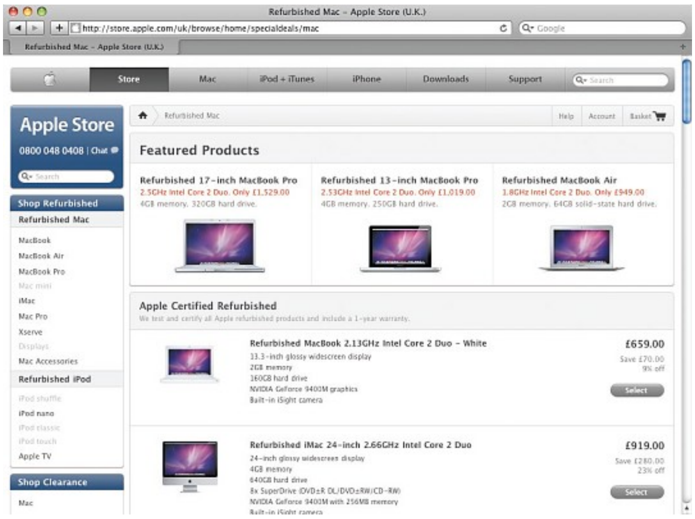
Macs both old and new can be had at cut-down prices from other online dealers.

– you can suss out the best value. For example, at the time of writing the cheapest Mac mini costs £510 (all prices include VAT). It's a great little machine, but its 160GB hard disk is small by today's standards. The next model up has 320GB, and also comes with a slightly faster processor and 4GB instead of 2GB of RAM, for £153 more.

Other options

That doesn't sound too bad – but consider the alternatives. You could start with the base model and plug in an external 500GB hard disk for around £70, giving you twice the storage and enabling you to use Mac OS X's *Time Machine* for backup. If you need the extra RAM as well, you could buy 2GB from a reputable supplier such as Crucial (**www.crucial.com/uk**) for around £45 and fit it yourself. So, except for missing a small performance boost, you could have a more flexible system for £40 less.

With iMacs, things get more complicated. The entry-level 21.5-inch model is a bargain at £969. If you want a higher specification, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card – but at £256 extra, you'd really have to want that graphics card. Once you consider this configuration, however, your eye may stray further to the third model, which offers identical features with a massive 27-inch screen (that's 50% bigger in area) for just £153 more. Considering you'd pay upwards of £500 for a 27-inch monitor of this quality, that's almost irresistible.



Refurbished Mac – Apple Store (U.K.)

http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac

Refurbished Mac – Apple Store (U.K.)

Apple Store

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NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight camera

£919.00
Save £280.00
23% off

Be sure to check out Apple's own online bargain basement store of refurbished hardware.

Then again, if you're into games the 256MB ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics may still not quite satisfy you. The top-end iMac ups this to a 512MB HD 4850, but again the price hike is a steep £256, partly because the processor is also upgraded to quad-core. If you don't need quad-core – and only a limited range of tasks will benefit, after all – that's frustrating.

> *"Under the Sale of Goods Act, anything you buy must be as described, of satisfactory quality and fit for its stated purpose"*

But hang on: you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the specs to create your own Mac. In this case you could pick the base 27-inch model and upgrade just the graphics card for £123. Not every item can be swapped, but it's well worth checking the options. Build to order is also available from Authorised Resellers, who may add third-party components for you.

The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive. Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

Know your rights

Wherever you buy from, consumer law is generally on your side. You can find detailed info at **www.consumerdirect.gov.uk** and **www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/advice**, but here's a quick summary of your rights. These apply when you buy as a consumer, not a business, from a commercial dealer.

Under the Sale of Goods Act and the various bits and bobs tacked onto it, anything you buy must be as described, of satisfactory quality and fit for its stated purpose. Your contract is with the supplier, not the manufacturer (though if you buy from Apple they're effectively the same), and you can only hold them to descriptions issued by them, not stuff you happened to read somewhere else. The purpose the goods must be fit for is any purpose that was mentioned in

»

Computer Warehouse offers the full spectrum of Apple hardware, both old and new.

» CREDIT CARDS: THE SAFE WAY FOR YOU TO PAY

Post credit crunch, it might seem even more sensible to avoid flashing the plastic. However, as a consumer, paying with a credit card gives you the best protection if the deal goes sour. That's not something you need to worry about when buying direct from Apple: with $23 billion in cash, it's unlikely to go bust before delivering your iMac. But among smaller retailers, even a reputable firm can occasionally let you down.

That's when the Consumer Credit Act kicks in. Dating back to 1974 – when a suspicious public wouldn't accept their new-fangled flexible friends without regulatory reassurance – this act states that when you spend more than £100 on your card its issuer is jointly liable, along with whoever you're buying from, for their side of the contract. So if the retailer doesn't deliver, the card people must reimburse you in full.

Even a dispute over faulty or incorrect goods can ultimately be referred to the credit provider. But the typical scenario is when a retailer goes out of business. As soon as you find out, call the card company and tell them you want to claim, then follow up in writing. They'll demand that you exhaust other remedies first, which may mean contacting the liquidators and waiting for them to confirm your money is lost. But they will pay up in the end. Be polite, clear and persistent. There's no statutory protection for users of charge cards, such as AmEx or debit cards. But providers may offer similar cover on a voluntary basis: most Visa debit cards, for example, now come with purchase protection. Check before you spend.

CREDIT CARD
0123 4567 8901 2
08/14
CARDHOLDER NAME

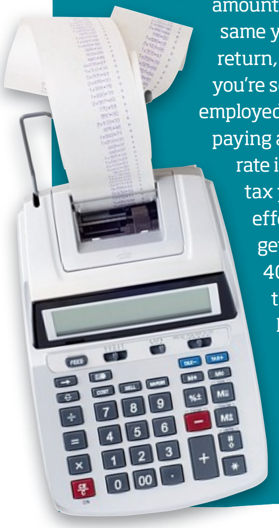
» WHEN THE TAX MAN IS YOUR FRIEND

Buying a Mac for business rather than pleasure entitles you to some very worthwhile tax breaks. First of all, VAT-registered companies will save 17.5% by claiming back the VAT from HMRC.

If you've always wondered what ex-VAT prices are about, here's how it works. Businesses turning over more than £68,000 a year have to register for VAT with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and charge VAT on most things they sell - including services, such as freelance work. They pass on this money to HMRC every three months. In return, they can claim back the VAT on anything they buy for business use, such as computers. If your turnover is lower you can still opt in, as long as you're 'in business', which includes anyone registered with HMRC as self-employed: check out **www.freelanceuk.com/news/3270.shtml** for more.

Aside from a bit of paperwork each quarter, the downside is that charging VAT will increase your prices if you work for members of the public. It won't make any difference to business clients, since they, in turn, claim it back. Visit **www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/start/register/when-to-register.htm** for more.

The cost of computers bought for business use can also be deducted from your taxable income. At the moment you're allowed to deduct the full amount in the same year's tax return, so if you're self-employed and paying a higher rate income tax you effectively get back 40% of the cost. Reclaim the VAT too, and your Mac is half price.



the supplier's promotional bumf or that you mentioned when buying and they didn't say "No, it won't do that." It's well worth telling the seller what you plan to do with your new Mac, so this becomes part of the contract.

Perfectionism

If the goods are unfit for their purpose, not as described or unsatisfactory, you can and should 'reject' them and ask for a full refund. These days, 'unsatisfactory' is interpreted quite broadly. Macs are sold as objects of desire, so if yours arrives slightly dented or with a scratch over the Apple logo, that's unsatisfactory, even if it works fine. If it doesn't work fine, and a quick call to the dealer's or Apple's helpline doesn't reveal a simple solution, reject it. Never, ever accept repairs to a new machine; send it back.

Refurbished or second-hand goods, by their nature, can be expected to have some small cosmetic flaws (though refurbs usually won't), but beyond that the same rules apply. If you see the goods before buying, you're deemed to have accepted any visible defects, along with anything mentioned in the description, so take care and have a good look.

Even the slightest deformity can uglify a sleek and shiny Apple Mac.

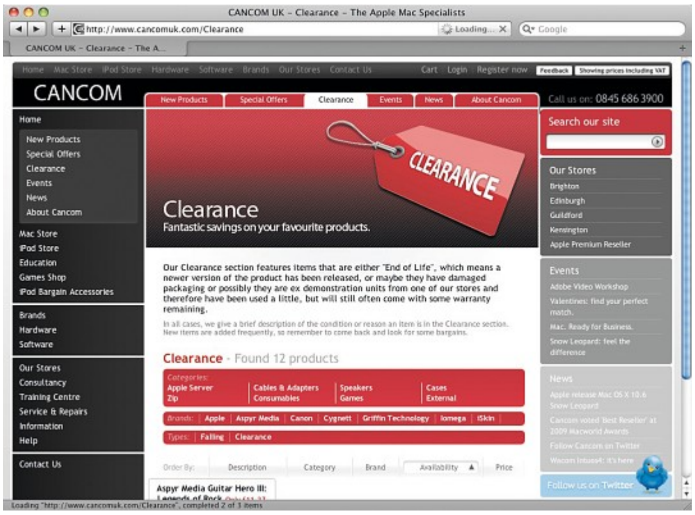
You can't normally reject non-faulty goods just because you change your mind, but the relatively new Distance Selling Regulations (DSR) do give you this right when you buy without visiting the seller's premises, for example over the internet. You have seven days from delivery to cancel your order. Who then pays for the return of the goods is a grey area; to avoid any damage-in-transit disputes it's best to invite the supplier to collect, but they can take the actual cost of this – not a made-up number – off your refund.

> *"Macs are sold as objects of desire, so if yours arrives slightly dented or scratched, that's unsatisfactory, even if it works fine"*

When you reject goods or cancel under DSR, the supplier can't legally impose any other charges, such as a 'restocking fee'. You must take care of the goods while they're in your possession, but you don't have to return the packaging in saleable condition; it's not unreasonable to open the box. There's no obligation to check the goods before signing the courier's paperwork, though it's wise not to wait very long, since your DSR rights are ticking away. You can still reject the goods up to six months later if you find a fault. After this time, it would be up to you to prove it was an 'inherent defect'. A report to that effect from an independent Mac repairer should suffice.

If you're buying for your business or from an individual, you still have the right to get what you pay for and not be cheated out of your money, but the lack of statutory assumptions in your favour can make disputes trickier to resolve. Partly for this reason, and also because of the slightly dodgy rules that apply for historical reasons to auctions, eBay and its favoured payment system, PayPal, operate their own safeguards for buyers, which you can read about at http://pages.ebay.co.uk/safetycentre/buyerprotection.html.

There's no such safety net when you buy a Mac from your sister-in-law's mate Jeff's friend, Dodgy Bob, and give him the cash in a pub, so our advice would be not to do that, despite his competitive prices. ●



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Clearance
Events
News
About Cancom
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Search our site
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New Products
Special Offers
Clearance
Events
News
About Cancom
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Types:
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Category
Brand
Availability
Price
Aspyr Media Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock

Our Clearance section features items that are either "End of Life", which means a newer version of the product has been released, or maybe they have damaged packaging or possibly they are ex demonstration units from one of our stores and therefore have been used a little, but will still often come with some warranty remaining.

In all cases, we give a brief description of the condition or reason an item is in the Clearance section. New items are added frequently, so remember to come back and look for some bargains.

Loading "http://www.cancomuk.com/Clearance", completed 2 of 3 items

Cancom is an alternative dealer of Apple hardware offering options to customise your Mac.

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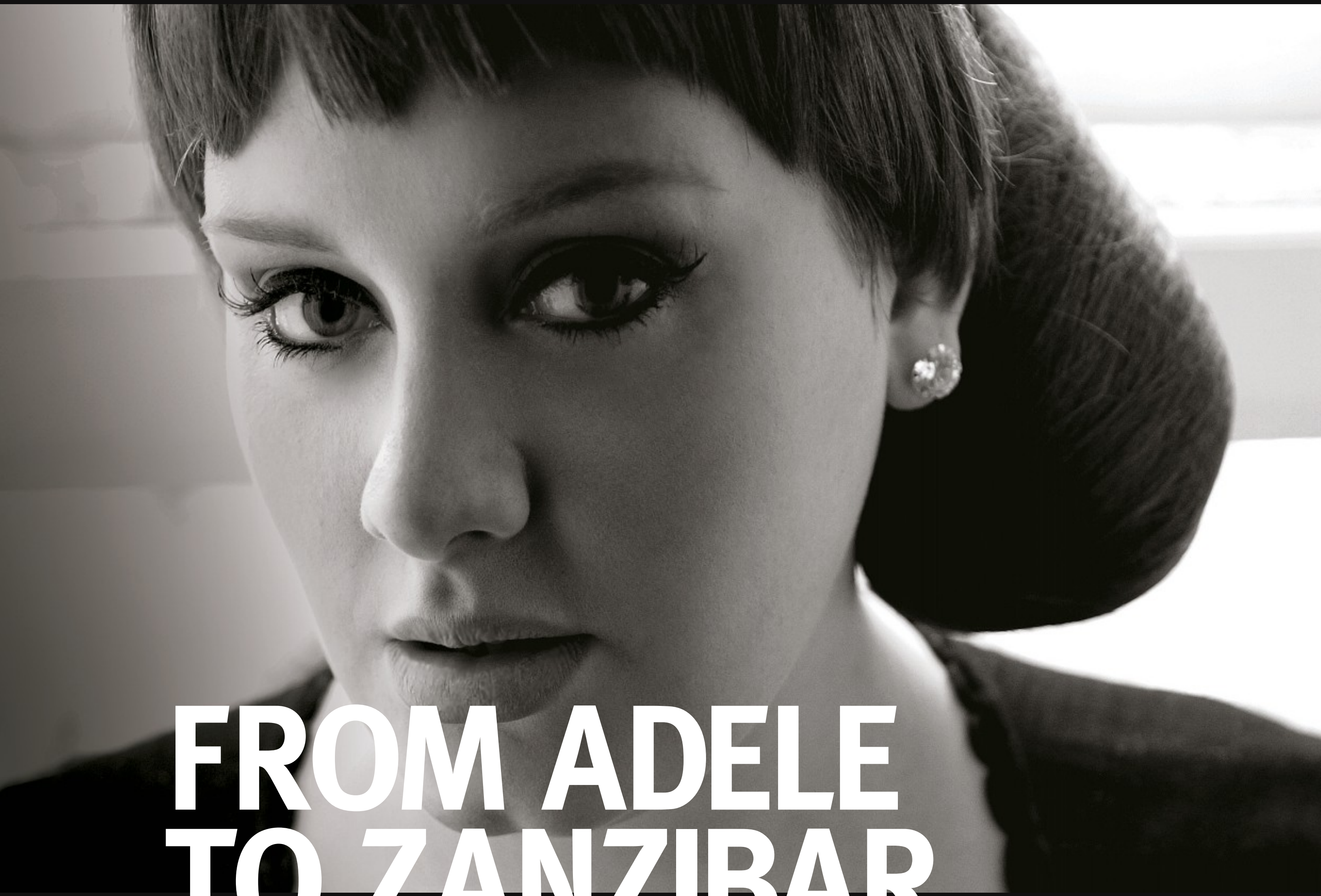

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Q&A

HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"Not one but three faulty Snow Leopard discs!"

Q I'm running a 2GHz Intel Core Duo, which I have confirmed with Apple should run 10.6. To cut a very long story short, I have now been sent three Snow Leopard installation disks. The original would not install even on a brand-new hard disk with only Leopard installed. As soon as I tried to install Snow Leopard I got the kernel panic screen. Apple support said my disk must be faulty and sent a replacement. This one merely spun in the DVD drive at ever increasing speeds before finally ejecting itself. (It also did this on a second machine.)

The third installation disc actually begins to install, however after a number of minutes, the machine reboots and I get the kernel panic screen. I am loathed to take it to an Apple Store because I'm convinced it will have to be sent off and I'll be without my computer for weeks. I'm happy running Leopard 10.5.8 but annoyed that I don't seem to have the option to upgrade due to an unknown fault.

Vic Mencner

A I think you're seeing two different faults here. Disc one wasn't faulty. Apple sent you a replacement disc because it's an easy thing to check and, the first time you report the problem, it isn't an unreasonable diagnosis. Unfortunately, disc two actually was faulty, as demonstrated by the fact that it behaves the same in two different computers. Disc three was fine again, which left you free to experience the original kernel panic problem once more.

The most likely explanation is a driver incompatibility – probably with the graphics driver. This may have been fixed by now in the 10.6.1 or 10.6.2 updates but unfortunately, you can't get to these without installing 10.6.0 first. There isn't a way to 'slipstream' the updates and the original OS on a single DVD, like you can with Windows. You could possibly get around this by temporarily installing a different graphics card for as long as it takes to perform the upgrade. But failing that, I'm afraid you will need to either put up with 10.5.8 or take your Mac into an Apple store.

OS X discs are usually very reliable. Two faulty discs in a row is unheard of.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard
The world's most advanced operating system. Finely tuned.
Mac OS X Snow Leopard

MacBook Pro

Access a remote PC from your Mac simply by installing Remote Desktop Host.

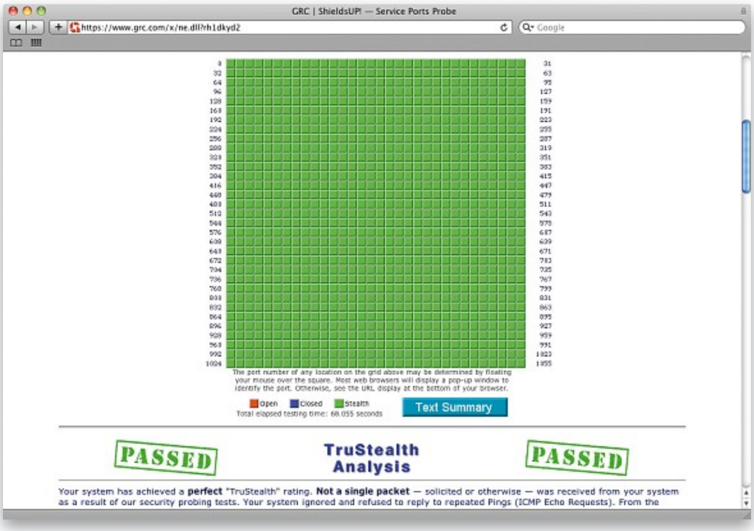
"How do you remotely access a PC from a Mac?"

Q My wife has a Macbook Pro laptop with Snow Leopard installation and needs access to her Windows XP computer at work. She has no trouble getting onto the company's main server but she cannot get onto her personal office computer. Is there a way she could gain this access?

Michael Byott

A If all you need to do is simply transfer files back and forth, you could set up an FTP server on the work PC (*FileZilla*, for example – http://filezilla-project.org) and use that to host the folders you want to access remotely.

For more direct access to the PC, it's probably simplest to install the *Remote Desktop Host* (included with


GRC | ShieldsUP! — Service Ports Probe
https://www.grc.com/x/ne.dll?rh1dkyd2
Google
Open
Closed
Stealth
Text Summary
PASSED
TruStealth Analysis
PASSED

The port number of any location on the grid above may be determined by floating your mouse over the square. Most web browsers will display a pop-up window to identify the port. Otherwise, see the URL display at the bottom of your browser.

Total elapsed testing time: 68.055 seconds

Your system has achieved a **perfect** "TruStealth" rating. **Not a single packet** — solicited or otherwise — was received from your system as a result of our security probing tests. Your system ignored and refused to reply to repeated Pings (ICMP Echo Requests). From the

Green lights across the board mean that your firewall is already as good as it can be.

XP Professional) on the work PC and then use *Boot Camp*, *Virtual PC* or *Parallels Desktop* to run XP Professional on your wife's Mac. She can then use *Remote Desktop* to access her Windows desktop, rather like the *iChat* Screen Sharing facility on the Mac.

Search Microsoft.com for "Remote Desktop" for more information on setting this up and be aware that, whatever solution you adopt, you should let the network administrators at work know what you're doing so that they can tweak their firewall settings as required.

"Why would I allow incoming connections?"

Q **Christopher Brennan (*MacFormat 215*) described how to set firewall preferences to accept or block incoming connections for different applications but he did not explain the basis on which one would make such decisions. Particularly when using *Office*, I frequently get asked whether I want the application (*Word, Excel, Entourage…*) to accept incoming network connections. I have no idea what the best answer is. Defaulting to security, I tend to say 'deny' but are there any reasons why I might say 'allow'? Just what are the types of incoming connections that these applications have in mind and could any of them be of benefit to me?**
Brian Quinn

A Incoming connections are network packets that were not specifically solicited by the application. When you use *Safari* to view a web page, the browser will send a request to the web server. The server will then reply with the contents of the page. That's an incoming packet, but it's not an incoming connection because an outward connection was already established before, when *Safari* made the request initially. An incoming connection is where the application, in effect, 'listens' for traffic on a certain port. *MS Office* applications will do this in order to receive notification of updates, for example. If you have the firewall set to block all incoming connections, it won't be able to do this and that's why it pops up the message, asking if you want to let this one through.

But here's the thing: you probably don't even need the Leopard firewall to be enabled at all. Most broadband routers use stateful packet inspection nowadays and you'll discover that this is pretty much the gold standard of most firewalls. If you wanted to, you can test yours by turning off the OS X firewall, (do this by going to Security Preferences) and then pointing your browser at www.grc.com. Now you can run the Shields Up! firewall test linked on their front page and see what you get. If it comes back with a satisfying clean bill of health using just your router's firewall, there's no advantage in also enabling the software firewall. It's mainly there to help out laptop users who might plug into insecure networks. »

Of ports and maps

Bill Gallop

When two computers communicate over the internet they do so using a protocol called TCP/IP. Also, even the simplest of web pages consist of a number of elements (if you want to see just what makes up the page then open up *Safari* and go to the **Window** menu and choose **Activity**). For your Mac to download all these elements one at a time would take a long time, especially if it included a large graphic or movie. It would be better if the Mac could download some, if not all, of these elements at the same time but it needs a way of telling the server which bit to send for each request.

When a Mac talks to a normal web server it does so using TCP port 80 but it requests that the servers reply on a different port so that both ends can keep track of the conversation. The return leg will use a randomly selected port number between 49152 and 65535. By tracking which bit of data should be coming back on which port the Mac can request lots of page elements at the same time and make sure they go in the right place. But what about traffic coming in? If you are running a web server on a Mac it will listen for someone trying to connect to it on port 80. If you are lucky your router will have a static IP address but the majority of ISPs use dynamic addresses, which change over time. So how will those wanting to view your web server find you? Dynamic DNS services like No-IP (**www.no-ip.com/**) or DynDNS (**www.dyndns.com/**) can provide you with a domain name that is updated with your router's current IP address.

> *"Your router could also have an IP address that the rest of the world can see but traffic cannot get beyond…"*

Your router could also have an IP address that others can see but traffic cannot get beyond. This is because the rest of the world will know nothing about the IP addresses on your network. Any requests for **www.example.com** will be sent to the router, which is probably set up for security to ignore requests on port 80 from the outside world.

We need to tell our router to accept requests on port 80 and forward them on to the computer that runs our web server. This is done using port mapping, port forwarding or a virtual server.There are two apps to help with port forwarding: *Port Map* (**www.codingmonkeys.de/portmap/index.html**) and *Lighthouse* (**http://codelaide.com/blog/products/lighthouse**) both of which handle the router configuration for you.

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

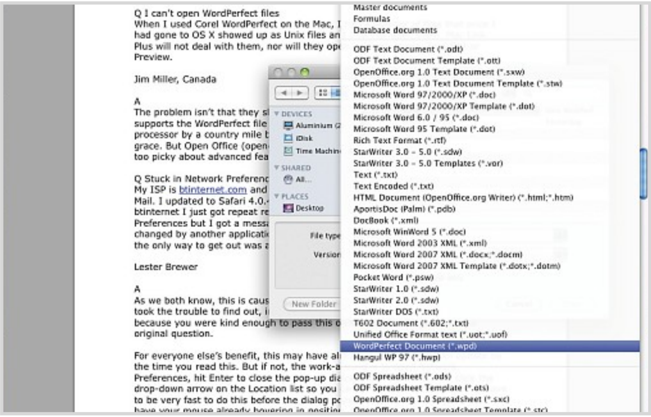
»QUICK TIP

Exposé will let you bring any window to the front of the desktop, but it doesn't hide the others, they just get shuffled to the back. If you ⌥-click an application's icon in the Dock however, all other open windows will be hidden, leaving you with just that application on an uncluttered screen.

"Why can't I open up WordPerfect files on my Mac?"

Q **When I used Corel *WordPerfect* on the Mac, I had a number of files that, once I had gone to OS X, showed up as Unix files and now I cannot open them. *MacLinkPlus* will not deal with them, nor will they open in *Word*, *Pages*, *TextEdit* or *Preview*.**
Jim Miller, Canada

A The problem isn't that they show as Unix files, it's just that hardly anything supports the *WordPerfect* file format. For an application that was the top word processor by a country mile back in 1991, this is an extraordinary fall from grace. But *OpenOffic.org* (http://openoffice.org) will handle it, as long as you don't get too picky about features like embedded graphics.


Q I can't open WordPerfect files
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had gone to OS X showed up as Unix files an
Plus will not deal with them, nor will they ope
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Jim Miller, Canada

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Lester Brewer

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because you were kind enough to pass this o
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Formulas
Database documents
ODF Text Document (*.odt)
ODF Text Document Template (*.ott)
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Microsoft Word 97/2000/XP (*.doc)
Microsoft Word 97/2000/XP Template (*.dot)
Microsoft Word 6.0 / 95 (*.doc)
Microsoft Word 95 Template (*.dot)
Rich Text Format (*.rtf)
StarWriter 3.0 – 5.0 (*.sdw)
StarWriter 3.0 – 5.0 Templates (*.vor)
Text (*.txt)
Text Encoded (*.txt)
HTML Document (OpenOffice.org Writer) (*.html;*.htm)
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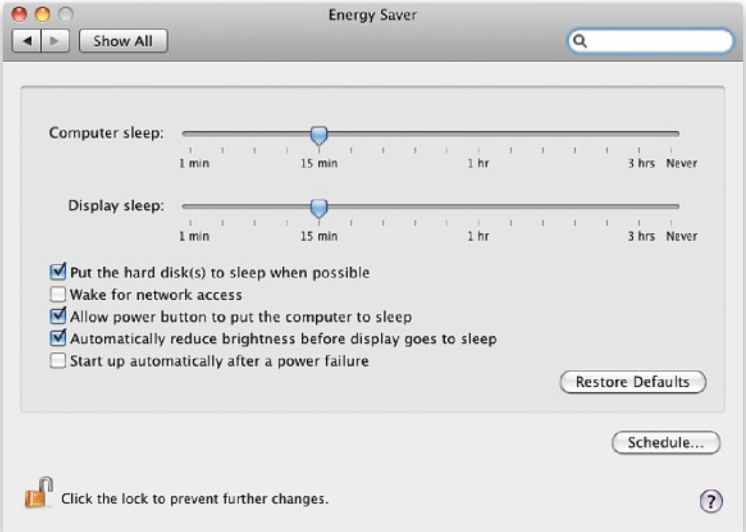
Microsoft Word 2003 XML (*.xml)
Microsoft Word 2007 XML (*.docx;*.docm)
Microsoft Word 2007 XML Template (*.dotx;*.dotm)
Pocket Word (*.psw)
StarWriter 1.0 (*.sdw)
StarWriter 2.0 (*.sdw)
StarWriter DOS (*.txt)
T602 Document (*.602;*.txt)
Unified Office Format text (*.uot;*.uof)
WordPerfect Document (*.wpd)
Hangul WP 97 (*.hwp)
ODF Spreadsheet (*.ods)
ODF Spreadsheet Template (*.ots)
OpenOffice.org 1.0 Spreadsheet (*.sxc)

OpenOffice.org will handle once popular but now obsolete file formats, like WordPerfect.


Energy Saver
Computer sleep: 15 min
Display sleep: 15 min
☑ Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible
☐ Wake for network access
☑ Allow power button to put the computer to sleep
☑ Automatically reduce brightness before display goes to sleep
☐ Start up automatically after a power failure
Click the lock to prevent further changes.

If OS X doesn't tell your external disk to sleep, it might decide to take a nap on its own.

"My external drive dismounts itself. Help!"

Q **I bought a Mac mini in November with Snow Leopard already installed, and started to run *Time Machine* on a LaCie external drive at the beginning of December. It is probably just a coincidence but since installing the Airport client update on the 10th, I have been receiving the following error message at random whenever *Time Machine* is switched on:**

"The disk was not ejected properly. If possible always eject a disk before unplugging it or turning it off."

At first I thought it might be related to the computer going to sleep but I've stopped it sleeping and that has made no difference.
Mike Wallbridge

A It is related to Sleep mode but not in the way you suppose. Even if you don't enable the option to spin drives down when not in use, some drives will do this of their own accord – particularly those with their own power supplies. When this happens, the USB controller will sometimes interpret this as a device disconnection and flag up the error. This is quite proper, since filing systems can become corrupted if a drive disconnects while files are open or write operations are pending.

The solution, counter-intuitively, is to tell Snow Leopard that it should put the disks to sleep when not in use. This makes sure that the operating system initiates the sleep requests, rather than the hardware, and so file handles are de-allocated in an orderly way.

»MACFIXIT TIPS / Put back multiple items from Trash

Apple's new **Put Back** feature in OS X 10.6 is convenient for items you have in the Trash that you would like to restore to their original locations. Before Snow Leopard, you would have to manually locate and drag the file back to where it came from. Despite this convenience, there may be times when you select files to restore, and the **Put Back** option in the **File** menu is greyed out, and is missing from contextual menus.

When an item is placed in the Trash, the system keeps track of its original location for the **Put Back** feature. If a file does not have this information associated with it, the system will not be able to use the feature. This can happen, for instance, if you uninstall or update a program and previous files are moved to the Trash by the program. The *Finder* is the program that associates the original location information to a file when it is put in the Trash, so only files moved to the Trash through it will be able to be **Put Back**.

Usually, you can select multiple items in the Trash and use the **Put Back** feature; however, if one selected file does not have any original location information, then the **Put Back** feature will not be enabled. If this happens, you will have to use the **Put Back** feature on files one-by-one, which can be done easiest by using the **Put Back** keyboard shortcut (⌘+⌫), which also moves selected items to the Trash in the *Finder*).

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

"How do I set a chapter marker in iDVD?"

Q **I have been making a slideshow in *iMovie* and making a DVD in *iDVD*. I noticed that when I added chapter markers the first one would be labelled 'Beginning'. So I was very interested in *MF215's* How To article about chapter markers and the tip to add a marker to the**

MACFIXIT TIPS / Bizarre corrupt graphics around MacBook windows

A number of MacBook users have been experiencing a problem in OS X where the system shows areas of graphics corruption around windows. The corruption appears to be a black area of blocky lines in no particular pattern, and seems to be in the area of the window's shaded region, moving with the window when it is moved.

This behaviour seems to be specific for computers that are running Intel GMA X3100 graphics chipsets. It started occurring with OS X 10.6 for some people, though for others the 10.6.1 update spurred the problem, and as of the latest 10.6.2 release this problem has not been addressed. The problem seems to happen most when multimedia files are being played, especially with beta versions of Adobe Flash being used. From the description and screenshots of the problem, this is clearly a problem with the GMA graphics drivers in Snow Leopard, so a true fix will have to come from an update from Apple.

Recent reports suggest Apple is working on significantly improving support for more *OpenGL 3.0* functions and extensions in OS X 10.6.3, which implies Apple will be updating the graphics drivers in the next update. Hopefully, the bug that is causing this problem will be addressed then, but in the mean time you can try the following to clear the problem or pinpoint faulty settings:

- Reset PRAM and SMC
- Boot into safe mode and clear caches with OnyX or other maintenance utility
- Try a different user account
- Try different graphics settings (bit depth, resolution)

Overall, this glitch will not hurt anything, and just affects Apple's rendering of window shadows. The window contents are still visible and can be interacted with normally. While it is unsightly, if you can bear with it Apple will address it soon. Some people may consider reinstalling OS X to tackle this issue, but those who have done this have not been able to clear the problem.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

beginning of the movie. However, when I do this in *iMovie* I still get the 'beginning' marker and immediately after it my actual marker in *iDVD*.

***iMovie* shows my movie starting with a transition and then the first slide (a title screen). I can only drag the chapter marker to the start of the slide, not before the transition. Is this the way *iMovie* works or am I doing something wrong? I would really like to get rid of the 'beginning' marker.**

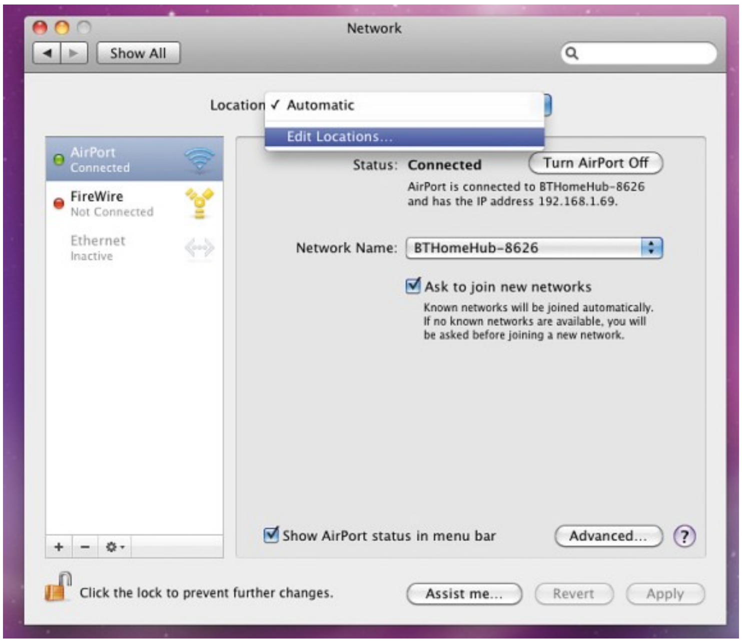
Andrew Wright

A The problem is that initial transition. If you don't put a chapter marker on the very first frame, *iMovie* will assume that you wanted one there anyway when you export to *iDVD* and it will be called Beginning. Unfortunately, you can't put a marker at the start if your movie begins with a transition. Who knows why? The solution is to put a single blank frame at the very start, lock your chapter marker to this and then add your opening transition after that.

"Stuck in Network Preferences since updating Safari"

Q My ISP is BT Internet and I check my mail in their server before opening it in *Mail*. I updated to *Safari 4.0.4* a few days ago and on entering my password for btinternet I just got repeat requests to confirm it. I looked in Network Preferences but I got a message saying "Your network settings have been changed by another application". Accepting it just brought it up repeatedly and the only way to get out was to Force Quit.

Lester Brewer



Status: Connected

AirPort is connected to BTHomeHub-8626 and has the IP address 192.168.1.69.

Network Name: BTHomeHub-8626

☑ Ask to join new networks

Known networks will be joined automatically. If no known networks are available, you will be asked before joining a new network.

☑ Show AirPort status in menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

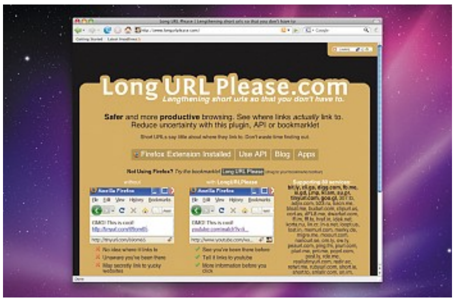
Lightning reflexes and a steady mouse hand will let you access this menu in time.

A As we both know, this is caused by a bug in *Safari 4.0.4*. You know because you took the trouble to find out, instead of just waiting for my reply, and I know because you were kind enough to let me know this a few days after your original question. However, for everyone else's benefit, this may have already been fixed with an update by the time you read this. But if not, the workaround is to open Network Preferences, hit ↩ to close the pop-up dialog and immediately click the drop-down arrow on the Location list so you can select Edit Locations… You have to be very fast to do this before the dialog pops up again, so make sure you have your mouse already hovering in position. Click the + icon to create a new location and then click Done. This should fix the problem.

QUICK TIP

Hit [Space] to instantly open **Quick Look** for any items selected in *Finder*. If you have more than one selected, you can click the **Index Sheet** icon (it looks like four squares in a grid) at the bottom of the Quick Look window, to display thumbnails of each one.

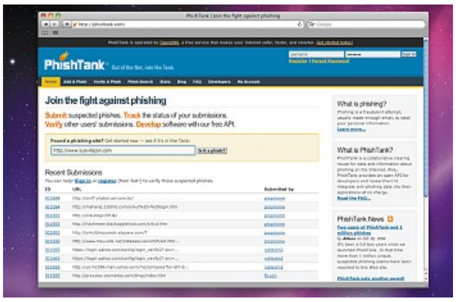
HOW TO / Think before you click that link…


Long URL Please.com
Lengthening short urls so that you don't have to.
Firefox Extension Installed
Use API
Blog
Apps

Safer and more productive browsing. See where links actually link to. Reduce uncertainty with this plugin, API or bookmarklet

01 Abreviated URLs

What does **tinyurl.com/23q2e6** point to? Check by using **preview.tinyurl.com/23q2e6** to see the full link before you click it. With *Firefox*, you can download an extension that works for other shortening sites, at **www.longurlplease.com**.

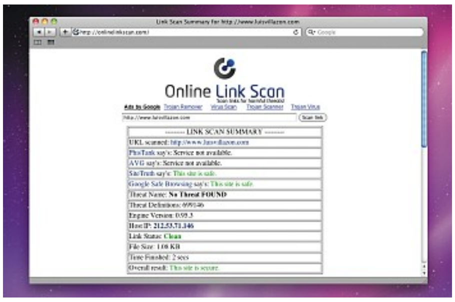


Join the fight against phishing

Submit suspected phishes. Track the status of your submissions. Verify other users' submissions. Develop software with our free API.

02 Phishing sites

Never enter your credit card number "for verification purposes", nor your mother's maiden name, the answer to your secret question or your *World of Warcraft* password, without checking that the site is not a bogus 'phishing' scam. Do this at **phishtank.com**.



LINK SCAN SUMMARY
URL scanned: http://www.luisvillazon.com
PhisTank say's: Service not available.
AVG say's: Service not available.
SiteTruth say's: This site is safe.
Google Safe Browsing say's: This site is safe.
Threat Name: No Threat FOUND
Engine Version: 0.95.3
Host IP: 212.53.71.146
Link Status: Clean
File Size: 1.08 KB
Time Finished: 2 secs
Overall result: This site is secure.

03 Bogus downloads

Sometimes a chat room or forum points you to a 'cool video' but the destination page prompts you to download 'the latest version of *Flash*' etc. These may be key logger programs. Run the URL through site validation services at **onlinelinkscan.com**.

QUICK TIP

Set *Finder* so that folders open in a new window or in the same one. To override this preference, hold the ⌘ key when you double-click a folder. This will give the other behaviour, for that folder only.

"How can I get all my mail accounts in one folder"

Q Though I love the look of the *Mail* app and it works with *Exchange*, are you aware of any way to avoid it setting a separate folder for each mail account?

As we have our own *Exchange* server for one of our businesses plus POP accounts for the others and use *Outlook* on the desktops, any POP mail being picked up via Mac *Mail* while out of the office doesn't appear in the inbox in *Outlook*. I have achieved a work-around by setting a rule on the Mac to move all mail to the *Exchange* mail address folder, however this is less than elegant and leaves all the POP email folders still there though empty. How can I use *Entourage* in a way that handles email the same as *Outlook*?

Robert Roughton

A Unfortunately, you can't fold inboxes from different email accounts into a single one. But you could use email redirection to forward emails from one account to another. If you have registered your own domain names for each of your businesses, most registration companies will provide email forwarding at no extra charge. If you haven't, .co.uk and .org.uk domains are cheap to register (try www.easily.co.uk, for example).

This would let you use separate addresses for all of your various businesses but have them redirected automatically to a single POP or IMAP account for convenient handling all within *Mail*.

"Mail fonts are coming up far too small"

Q I've just started using my iMac to access my work emails for when I'm working from home. I have it set up to connect over a VPN and *Mail* is set up with IMAP Exchange. However, I have found that some mail I receive is very small and almost impossible to read. Also, when I send emails, the recipient only sees it as plain text and not in HTML. So my fancy fonts or colours aren't showing up and make my emails look bad.

James Shimmin

MACFIXIT TIPS / Login items disappearing

Apple's login items are exceptionally useful for launching programs, running scripts, and opening documents, folders, or other resources that are regularly accessed upon logging in. For instance, a common program to run as a login item is an email client such as *Mail*. Adding an application to the login items is as easy as right-clicking it in the Dock and choosing **Open at Login** from the contextual menu (in the **Options** submenu in Snow Leopard), but to add other items you must use the **Accounts** system preferences.

Sometimes, there may be problems with login items, where either items will not stay in the list, or cannot be removed from the list. The login items are simple alias references in a plist file, and adding and removing them from the list just updates the file accordingly. As with many faulty settings, corruption in the property list file can result in settings not sticking, so if this is the case with login items, then try removing the plist file, which is the following:

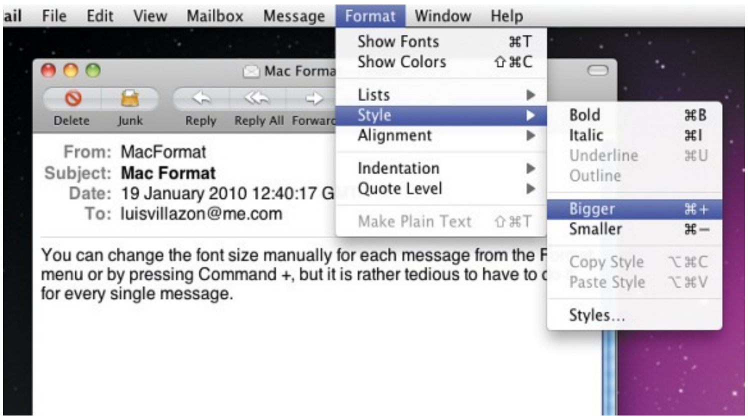
`/username/Library/Preferences/loginwindow.plist`

Before moving this file, be sure to make note of your current login items, since removing the file will clear the login items list. Many times applications will have helper applications start up in the login items, which are required for proper functionality. While starting the application itself in many cases will restore the helper application in the login items, in some instances you may have to add it back manually.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh


ail
File
Edit
View
Mailbox
Message
Format
Window
Help
Show Fonts ⌘T
Show Colors ⇧⌘C
Lists
Style
Alignment
Indentation
Quote Level
Make Plain Text ⇧⌘T
Bold ⌘B
Italic ⌘I
Underline ⌘U
Outline
Bigger ⌘+
Smaller ⌘–
Copy Style ⌥⌘C
Paste Style ⌥⌘V
Styles…
Mac Forma
Delete
Junk
Reply
Reply All
Forward

From: MacFormat
Subject: Mac Format
Date: 19 January 2010 12:40:17 G
To: luisvillazon@me.com

You can change the font size manually for each message from the F
menu or by pressing Command +, but it is rather tedious to have to c
for every single message.

Increase the font size in the Format menu (which can get tiresome for every message).

A This happens because the *Exchange* server turns all plain-text emails into a multi-part format with the original text part and then a duplicate HTML version, and it uses SIZE=2 tags for every line of text in the HTML section. The OS X *Mail* application always displays the HTML version of an email message, if there is one, and on a Mac, the default font for SIZE=2 is small on most monitors.

In *Safari* (which uses the same HTML rendering engine), you can override the stylesheet with larger fonts for this size setting, via the preferences pane. *Mail* doesn't have an option to do this in its preferences. But you can do it manually. Create your own stylesheet, called MailFont.css or similar, with the line:

```
Font[size="2"] { font-size: 12pt; }
```

Now use a plist editor (in the developer tools section of your Leopard DVD) to edit ~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.mail.plist. You need to add two keys.

WebKitUserStyleSheetEnabledPreferenceKey is Boolean and should be set to 'YES'. This is a string with the path and filename of your style sheet (~/MailFont.css, or whatever).

If this seems too complicated, you can just force a larger minimum font. Let's do this from *Terminal*, in case you don't want to install the plist editor:

```
defaults write com.apple.mail
MinimumHTMLFontSize 12
```

The flip side of this customisability is that your recipient has just as much freedom as you. If he has his PC or Mac set to show emails as plain text, none of your HTML formatting will be displayed and there isn't much you can do about it other than persuade him to enable HTML in his mail reader.

"Brightness levels won't save since I updated"

Q Whenever I start up or restart my Intel iMac, the brightness level is always set to maximum; I am constantly having to adjust the brightness level. This seems to have happened with the installation of the OSX 10.5.8 update. My preferred brightness level was always saved prior to this update every time.

Brian Tallis

A There was a bug in 10.5.8 that meant the brightness setting would never be saved if it was set to zero. If you set the brightness to one notch above this, it should save correctly. This seems to have been fixed in Snow Leopard. ●

A bug in 10.5.8 kept brightness at bay.

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I want to zip a file that is 85MB to get it slimmer before I send it. What software is best for this? I had *Stuffit* on my iBook, but now I can only find *Expander*.

SonicRed Joined: 04 Sep 2004 Posts: 49 Location: London

A All you have to do is simply right click on the file and click **Compress File**.

Zak Joined: 13 Oct 2008 Posts: 826, Location: Channel Islands

Q My laptop has difficulty connecting to my base station (BT Router). Sometimes I'm not far from the router yet it will not connect. How can I create a better signal?

IoooNo Joined: 15 Nov 2008 Posts: 118 Location: Whittlesford

A Your laptop's AirPort doesn't need any help finding signals, Apple used to claim they can pick up WiFi from 50 metres away! It may well be more to do with the channel your router is transmitting on. Check your router settings and change the channel, so it's set to **3**.

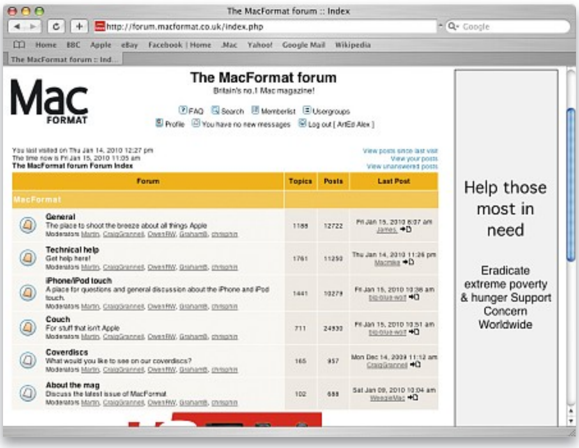
bigdave Joined: 12 Sep 2008 Posts: 2420 Location: York

Q I bought a 27-inch iMac i7 quad core and migrated my info from an old iMac power PC. Now when I open *Mail*, it comes up with: "Mail has disabled the following plug-in: Personal Antispamformail Contact the makers of these plug-ins for versions that are compatible with Mail 4.2 and message 4.2." I can't find any plug-ins when I use **Spotlight**.

studoogs Joined: 12 Mar 2009 Posts: 8 Location: Aldershot

A *Personal Antispam X5* is an Intego utility, which must have been on the old iMac, and has been pulled across onto the new one. It's a *Mail* plugin that filters spam before it gets to your inbox. There's an update (v10.5.5) compatible with Snow Leopard 10.6. Go to **www.intego.com/services/updates.asp**. Or, if you have the original installer disc uninstall by running it again and select the **Uninstall** option.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2010 Posts: 1985 Location: Manchester


The MacFormat forum :: Index
http://forum.macformat.co.uk/index.php
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The MacFormat forum
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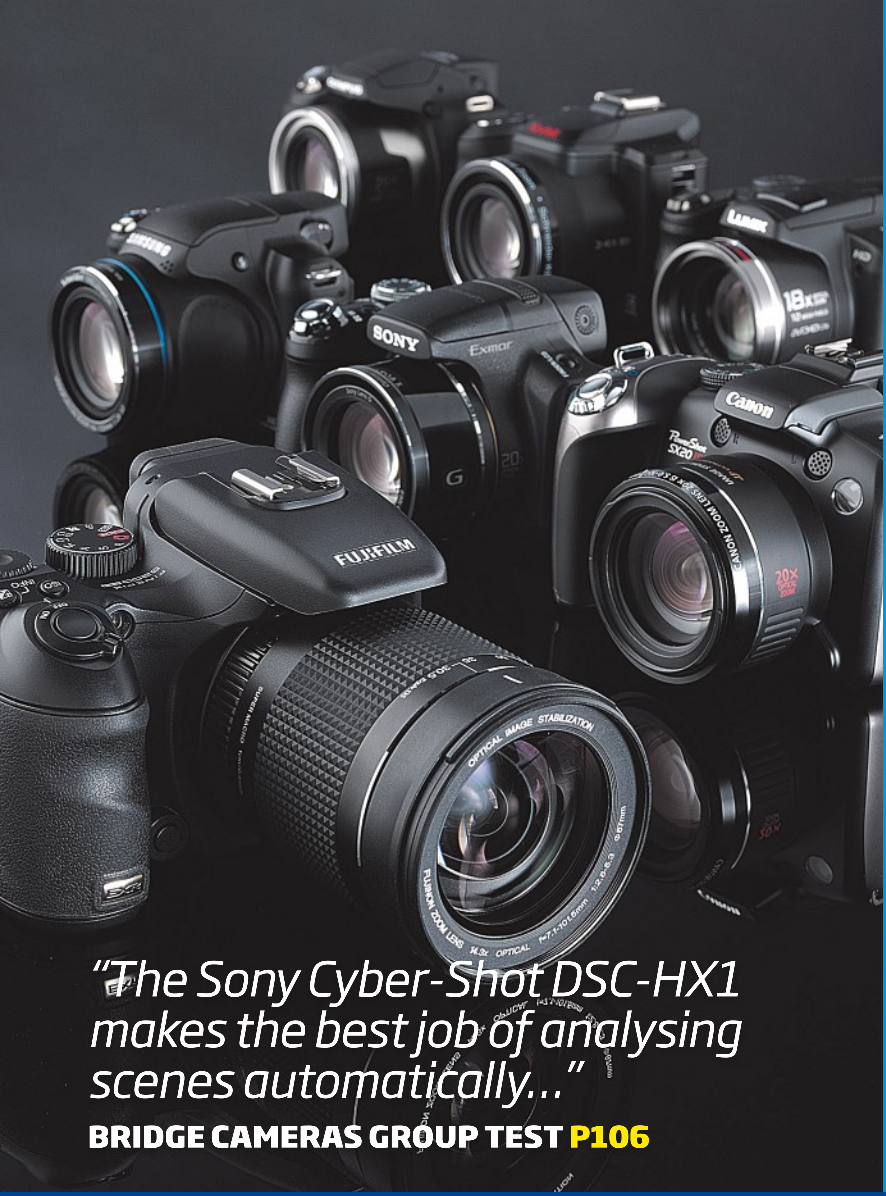


"The Sony Cyber-Shot DSC-HX1 makes the best job of analysing scenes automatically…"

BRIDGE CAMERAS GROUP TEST P106

Reviews

● HARDWARE ● SOFTWARE ● iPHONE APPS ● SHAREWARE ● GAMES

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Photographers: what do you do if you want more control over your pictures than a digital compact can offer, but balk at the idea of moving all the way up to an SLR? Perhaps you need a bridge camera. Prices are falling, but can the best of the bunch combine the versatility of a digital SLR with the simplicity of a compact? In this issue's group test, Chris Phin takes an in-depth look at bridge cameras costing around £300 from six of the world's leading manufacturers. So which comes out on top? Turn to page 106 and find out.

Talking of going a little further and getting a little more without sacrificing ease of use, Chris Brennan reviews Citrix Online's GoToMyPC for Mac this issue too. It's every bit as straightforward as MobileMe's Back to My Mac feature, but you can use it to access your Mac from a PC as well as from another Mac. Check out the full review over on page 93.

And keep an eye out for our next issue, on sale March 31. We'll be bringing you a full review of Apple's *Aperture 3*, which adds Faces and Places support, as well as a number of other exciting features.

» OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★	A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.
Mac FORMAT Winner!	Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.
Mac FORMAT On the disc	This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> MOBILE BROADBAND DONGLE

Virgin Mobile 7.2Mbps Dongle

£25 Can you really get high-speed broadband on the go?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Virgin Mobile
www.virginmobile.com

SPECIFICATIONS

7.2Mpbs modem, MicroSD slot

PROS & CONS

⊕ Mac compatible
⊕ Consistent connection
⊖ Low connection speeds
⊖ Odd software behaviour

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"It works, but not as fast as they say it does. And your coverage may vary."

Mobile broadband has really taken off in the past few years, with all the major providers getting in on the act. Having a broadband connection wherever you are is a great idea; it saves you the pain of finding a wireless hotspot, and basically enables you to work anywhere. That's the theory at least. In many cases, speeds are slow and coverage patchy. However, faster and faster mobile broadband offerings are appearing all the time, and the latest such offering is from Virgin Mobile. They've added a 7.2Mbps mobile broadband modem option to their tariff; the dongle is £25 on a £10-a-month contract with 1GB of data, or free on a 18-month fixed contract for the same data. There's a range of other payment options available too, but there's no 'unlimited' data plan.

Using the Virgin broadband dongle was a bit hit and miss; it always worked and didn't crash, but did display some odd behaviour. After inserting the dongle we occasionally got a message that *System Preferences* needed changing, but they did not. We'd often get a warning on unplugging too. That said, when the connection was up and running it was steady and reliable. However, the speed was nowhere near as fast as advertised. At most we got 1.5Mbps, but the connection spent much of the time around the 0.5Mbps region. We tested in multiple locations and with different computers, and even tried a Windows PC to see if it was a Mac software issue. It wasn't.

0.5Mbps is enough to get email and basic web surfing very comfortably, but audio streaming or iPlayer? Forget it. As it stands, the Virgin Mobile broadband dongle is difficult to recommend if you're looking for the speeds it claims to offer.

Christopher Brennan

Virgin media
micro SD

The dongle works, but lacks the advertised speeds to make it a true broadband replacement.

>> 19-INCH LCD MONITOR

Hanns.G HH191DPB

£101 Do smaller, non-widescreen monitors still have a use?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Hanns.G
www.hannsg.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 1280x1024 SXGA
Contrast ratio: 15000:1
Response time: 5ms
Dimensions: 41x16x41cm
Weight: 4.0kg

PROS & CONS

⊕ Great second screen
⊕ Good colour reproduction
⊖ Inconsistently lit
⊖ Lousy speakers

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Not great as a regular display, but works very well as a second screen."

A 19-inch, 5:4-ratio budget display is not an ideal choice for a primary monitor, but it's a useful supplementary second screen. This model from Hanns.G puts in a surprisingly good performance for a budget display, and although it lacks the high-end reproduction necessary for pro-level graphic design or video editing, it's ideal for parking your tool windows or web browser to free up valuable space on your main screen.

The HH191DPB puts in a good performance for the gradients test. Colour ramps are smooth, and it does well to distinguish between near-black and near-white and pure black and white. Its photo reproduction is sharp and well defined, though the colours are a little strong out of the box. Its text rendering is less strong, however, struggling to retain definition at low point sizes and lacking clarity throughout.

Displays at the cheaper end of the market rarely perform impeccably in single-screen tests, and this one doesn't buck the trend. The lower half of the viewing area is noticeably better lit than the upper half, giving an all-white screen a distinct blue hue at the bottom and a yellow tinge at the top. As is the norm for less expensive monitors, its internal speakers are tinny, muted, woefully underpowered and virtually bass-free, but in a second-screen setup you probably wouldn't opt to use them except for emergencies.

The Hanns.G HH191DPB represents good value for money. Its low cost and small footprint make it an ideal second screen, a role in which its weaknesses are less relevant.

Ian Osborne

A low price and small form factor make the 19-inch Hanns.G HH191DPB an ideal second screen, but it's not for primary use.

The update to the Kodak Zi6 looks great on paper, but it's still not quite good enough to deserve an unqualified recommendation.
Photography by Joseph Branston

>> COMPACT DV CAMERA

Kodak Zi8 Pocket Video

£121 This camera's older brother won our group test, but is this version a worthy update?

Kodak's latest pocket digital video camera is an object lesson in why an impressive spec sheet does not necessarily make a good product.

At first glance, the Zi8 answers all the criticisms we had of the Zi6, the model that (just) won our group test in issue 209. It has basic stabilisation, a rechargeable Li-ion battery rather than AAs, 1080p recording rather than 720p, HDMI output and a port for an optional stereo microphone. (That last point is particularly welcome; all models in this class seem to completely forget about audio fidelity.)

And yet, while our general impression is positive, niggles remain. The image stabilisation can smooth out small jitters from using it hand-held, but you may be disappointed. The 1080p recordings, while technically impressive, are a little dirty at 100%, and while the Zi8 claims 30fps, it often drops below this and videos are sometimes a little stuttery. Alternatively, you can opt for 720p at 30 or even 60fps – great for slow-mos, though there's some annoying vertical banding.

Video, though, is generally good. Low-light performance, in particular, is striking at this price point and the convenience of plugging the Zi8 directly into your Mac and dragging a neat series of clips across, ready to be edited in *iMovie '08* and later, is most welcome.

> *"The convenience of plugging the Zi8 into your Mac and dragging clips across is most welcome"*

In giving the case a slicker, more designed feel (available in raspberry, as above, black and aqua) Kodak is treading a difficult line; one of the charms of this kind of camera is that it doesn't feel precious, and yet the smart finish here runs counter to that. It also makes it more slippery than we'd like; it wriggled out of our hands and onto the pavement more than once during testing.

You'll start to notice after a while that the internal mic isn't exactly a great performer at the natural distance from which you frame your subjects, but you can at least plug in an external one. The mic jack seems to be a little noisy, however.

Christopher Phin

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Kodak
www.kodak.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 1920x1080, 30fps; 1280x720, 60fps; lower lens: 6.3mm, f/2.8, fixed focus **Media:** 128MB (internal) SD/SDHC **Weight:** 110g **Dimensions:** 62.0x113.2x21.5mm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Basic stabilisation
- ⊕ Decent low-light performance
- ⊖ Audio/video could improve
- ⊖ Need to buy an SD card

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Not as cheap as a Flip, nor as good as a proper DV camera, but has its merits."

>> EARPHONES WITH CONTROLLER

Klipsch Image S4i

£90 Improving on Apple buds is easy, but at what price?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Revo Technologies
www.revo.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency response: 10Hz-19kHz **Nominal impedance:** 18Ω **Compatibility:** See www.klipsch.com/na-en/products/image-s4i-overview

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Useful extra controls
- ⊕ iPod shuffle 3G-compatible
- ⊖ Poor value
- ⊖ Some ergonomic compromises

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"While we applaud the idea, the audio quality just isn't worth £90."

The iPhone's great success has meant that earphone manufacturers haven't been reluctant to create earphones especially for it, including the mic/clicker arrangement used for calls and to control playback. There are relatively few that have volume controls on the same clicker; but the Image S4i earbuds from Klipsch do.

While volume controls are a nice convenience for, say, iPhone users, they're vital for anyone who wants to add better third-party earbuds to a new iPod shuffle, as is the Image S4i's support for VoiceOver.

They're reasonably comfortable, though we found it tricky to get a good fit with the supplied tips, and the over-the-ear route the thin cable takes isn't to everyone's taste. Also the lightness of the clicker meant that there was nothing keeping the over-the-ear cable from riding up and unhooking over the top of the ear.

The quality of the mic for hands-free calls was variable. In a quiet room, callers reported good results, but the mic's placement on your sternum puts it rather far away from your voice, doesn't shield it from wind and ambient noise, and means you can't really thread the cable neatly through clothing. (An optional clip in the package can help with both issues, but it's inelegant.) They sound good, but certainly not 'ninety quid' good – the bass is too flabby.

Note that very few iPhone and iPod models can use all the Image S4i's features. Owners of the volume-rocker-less original iPod touch especially would have loved these, but the volume controls don't work with that model.

Christopher Phin

The Image S4is add volume controls to the clicker, but they're not without fault.

>> PORTABLE iPOD SPEAKER DOCK

Altec Lansing inMotion Classic

£112 A portable music system with quality sound? Read on…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Altec Lansing
www.alteclansing.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: 2x 3-inch neodymium
Inputs: iPod/iPhone dock, Aux, FM
Size: 3.8x2.1x1.5cm **Weight:** 1kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Portable and convenient
- ⊕ Rechargeable battery
- ⊕ Very stylish
- ⊖ Weak hand controller

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A stellar portable speaker set with great sound and impressive features."

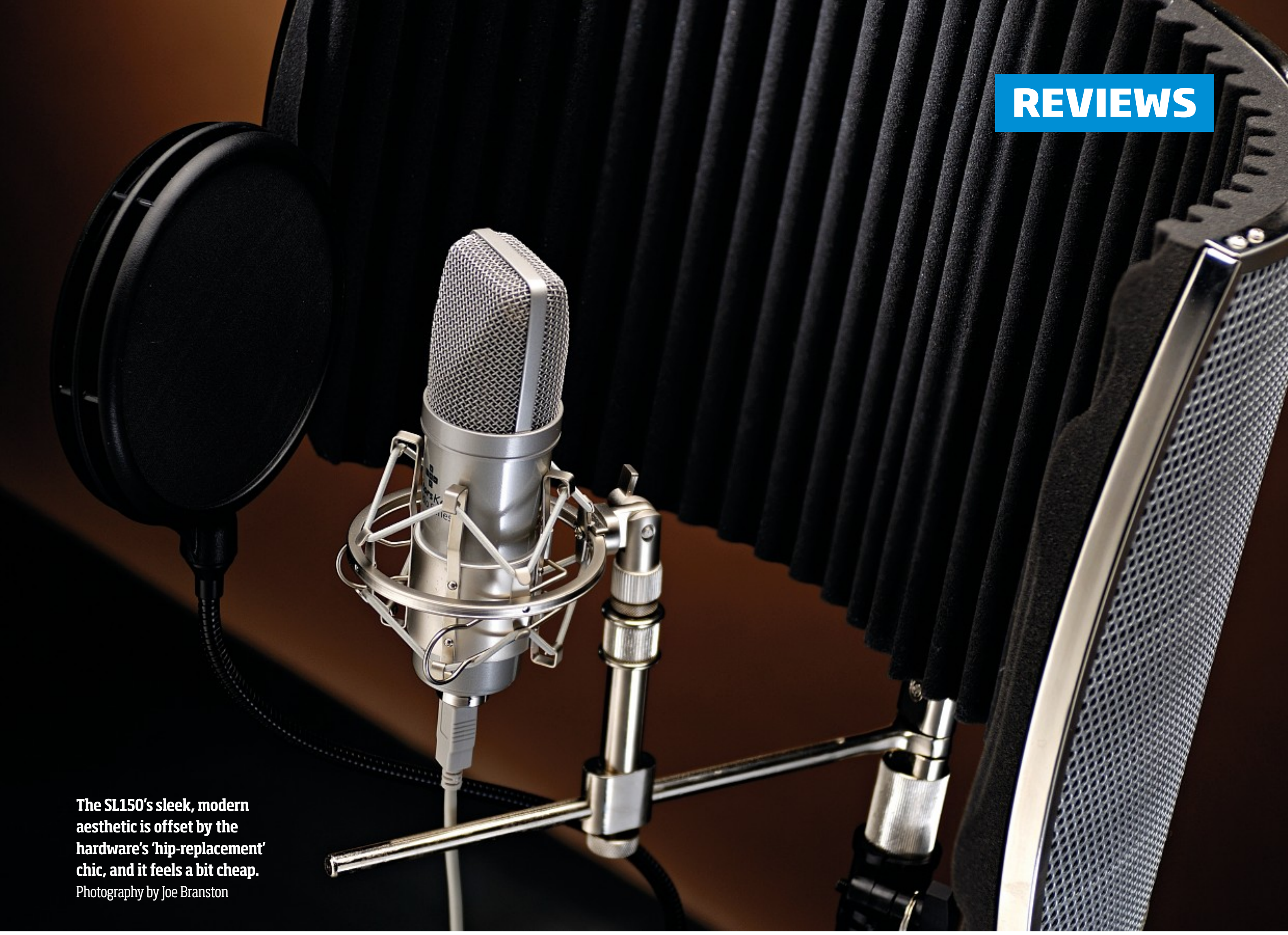
Altec Lansing's inMotion Classic isn't short of features. It's a speaker set for the iPod and iPhone, and also offers a built-in FM radio. It has a rechargeable battery for when mains power's not available; in our tests it lasted over five hours. An LCD shows which track or radio frequency you're listening to, and its auxiliary input means you can connect any audio device that has a headphone socket.

Its sound quality is very good for a mobile speaker set. It doesn't match the standards set by expensive, high-end models, but it's loud enough to fill a decent-sized room without distorting and gives a surprisingly warm and complete sound considering its small form factor. There's lots of bass, plenty of definition and Altec Lansing's own Expanded Sound Stage technology makes the speakers seem further apart than they actually are. It's portable too, with its kickstand folding down when not in use or doubling as a handle for carrying your dock. Folding the stand into the 'closed' position turns off the device to save on precious battery power, which is a neat idea. There's even a built-in storage slot to hold the remote when not in use.

The inMotion Classic is not without its faults. The hand controller feels cheap and insubstantial, with buttons that take far too much pressure to press. Its four radio presets aren't enough, and a clock with alarm functions would have been welcome. Even so, you're getting a lot of dock for your money.

Ian Osborne

The inMotion Classic's carry handle also serves as a stand.



The SL150's sleek, modern aesthetic is offset by the hardware's 'hip-replacement' chic, and it feels a bit cheap.
Photography by Joe Branston

>> VOCAL RECORDING SOLUTION

Editors Keys Vocal Booth Pro

£220 The SL150 mic bundle that claims to be a complete and affordable vocal recording setup

Editors Keys' Vocal Booth Pro bundle is an all-in-one voice-recording solution aimed at both the broadcast and music-making markets. You get a microphone and shock mount, a pop-shield (for removing annoying pops from the beginning of plosive 'p' and 'b' sounds), a mic stand and the Vocal Booth Pro itself, a 'soundproof' shield designed to stop your voice reflecting around the room and thus colouring the sound.

The centrepiece is, of course, the microphone. The Editors Keys SL150 is a large-diaphragm condenser mic, the same type the pros use to record vocals and instruments such as acoustic guitars. It's actually a USB mic, meaning it acts as an audio interface and pops right up in *System Preferences* as an extra input source.

The mic lacks an XLR output (so you can't use it with sound gear such as mixers and so on – it has to go into a computer), and while this is standard for microphones in this price bracket, it does make the mic's 'Studio Series' label a bit of a misnomer.

Still, it does a perfectly acceptable job of recording both talking and singing. Again, performance is on a par with similarly-priced XLR condensers, and it certainly cuts the mustard for pro broadcast work. Unlike most mics, however, the SL150 lights up when plugged in – a neat feature, although it's a bit unnerving to put your lips so near to electrical equipment illuminated in a shade best described as 'high-voltage blue'.

> *"It acts as an audio interface and pops right up in System Preferences as an extra input source"*

The rest of the hardware isn't quite as neat. The mic stand feels cheap, and the large slugs of metal used to mount the Vocal Booth are difficult to assemble and poorly manufactured. The Vocal Booth Pro itself is a clamshell design, with the mic-facing side covered in sound-absorbing, high-density foam. Rigged up, the mic does a fine job. Reduced reflections from the room means a less diluted sound, making vocals tighter, more concise and easier to mix.

Overall, it's a respectable if slightly flawed offering, which provides very decent results on a home budget.

Chris Wicket

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Editors Keys
www.editorskeys.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Type: Large diaphragm USB condenser **Polar Pattern:** Hypercardioid **Frequency Response:** 20Hz - 18kHz **Connectivity:** USB only

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Effective sound isolation
- ⊕ Good quality microphone
- ⊖ Poorly manufactured
- ⊖ Bulky and cheap-feeling

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A worthwhile purchase for home podcasters and amateur musicians."

>> CHARGER

powermonkey-classic V2

£35 www.powertraveller.com

01 The powermonkey-classic V2 comes with a bag of tips to fit a range of mobile phones and portable electrical products, including the iPod/iPhone, Micro and standard USB, Nokia, Samsung G600, Sony PSP and more. Check the website for a complete list. It's handy and compact too. For travellers, its power supply comes with US, UK, European and Australian heads. Charging your device is simple; connect using the correct tip and press a button, for a reserve of up to 40 hours on your iPod.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A useful and versatile device that's handy to have around."

>> FM TRANSMITTER

Griffin iTrip for iPod & iPhone

£35 www.griffintechnology.com

02 The iTrip does a great job of transmitting your sounds on the FM band, so you can pick them up on a nearby radio. It's powered from your iPod or iPhone making it ideal for in-car use.

Features include scanning for the best reception, SmartSound to enhance audio quality and a Micro USB port to charge your iPhone or iPod without removing the iTrip. iPhone users need Airplane Mode. There's also an app available for the iPhone and iPod touch, but it adds nothing to the iTrip's native functionality.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A stylish and capable addition to the iTrip range."

>> DOCK & BATTERY

Kensington Dock with Mini Battery

£50 www.kensington.com

03 This is an iPod dock with a difference. As well as a USB-powered docking station you can connect to your computer for charging and syncing, or to a USB power adaptor for charging only; it also charges a mini-battery to give your iPod or iPhone a boost. The battery is powered through a USB connector, so you can charge it outside the dock if you have a spare cable. We found that it charged a depleted iPhone to three-quarters full. A useful device to keep handy for when you need a power boost.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A useful device at the desk as well as on the move."

>> RECEIVER

RX1 Wireless iDock Audio Receiver

£75 www.dipecomm.eu

04 By connecting the iDock's receiver to the dock and its S5T transmitter to your iPod, you can beam your sounds wirelessly and keep your audio player in your hand for a greater degree of control.

The system does a decent job of beaming music. iPhone users need Airplane Mode, and it won't work with older, FireWire-charged iPods. Pairing the two units is awkward, but you only have to do it once. If you already have a product featuring the S5T unit, you can buy the RX1 on its own for £35.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A competent but imperfect system. Not for audiophiles..."

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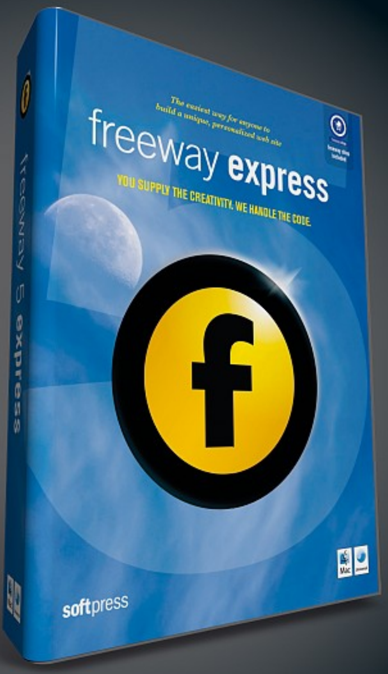
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>>APPLICATION UNINSTALLER

AppZapper 2.0.1

$13 (£8) The original OS X uninstaller gets a revamp, but is it warranted?

CONTACTS

Developer: Team AppZapper
www.appzapper.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard
Hard disk space: 3.9MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Completely uninstalls apps
- ⊕ Useful serial manager
- ⊕ Free to upgrade from Version 1.x
- ⊖ Free apps do a similar job

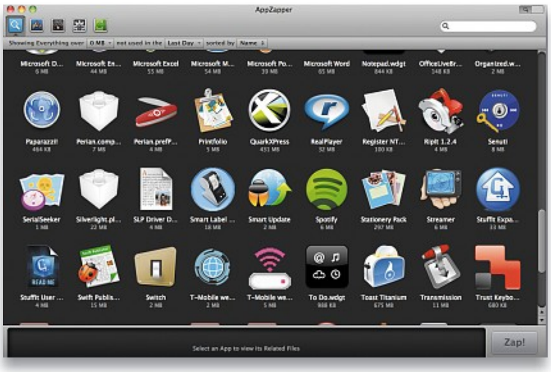
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Executed with real style. Worth the money, despite similar free apps."

Deleting an application by dragging it into the Trash leaves behind files such as preference and support data, but *AppZapper* deletes the app and all its associated files at the push of a button. It's hardly essential (the files left behind are generally small and inconsequential), but if you try out a lot of software, it's good to completely remove the ones you decide not to keep. But is *AppZapper 2.0* worth the £8 when programs such as *AppDelete* and *AppTrap* do a similar job for free?

AppZapper 2.0 offers a more streamlined interface. Drag-and-drop deletion is augmented by a browser showing your apps, widgets, plug-ins and user-added *System Preferences* panes, all of which can be removed using *AppZapper*. You can add restrictions to this browser, displaying only programs over a certain size and listing according to name or when it was last used. You can erase several apps at once, and configure your deletions so you keep certain files, which is useful for deleting corrupt preferences while retaining the application. A new feature called My Apps holds licence and registration information on card icons. You can store an app's URL too. Graphical excellence comes at the price of compatibility; it's now Snow Leopard-only.



Navigate apps, widgets, plug-ins and preferences with AppZapper.

Is *AppZapper 2.0* worth the price? We think so. There are free apps that do a similar job, but not with the same finesse – and storing your licence codes in one place is a bonus.

Ian Osborne

>>INTERACTIVE COLOUR WHEEL

ColorSchemer Studio 2.0

$49.99 (£32) Install this app and never create a duff colour scheme again

CONTACTS

Developer: ColorSchemer
www.colorschemer.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Thorough toolset
- ⊕ Accessibility simulation
- ⊖ Somewhat complex interface
- ⊖ A touch pricey

VERDICT

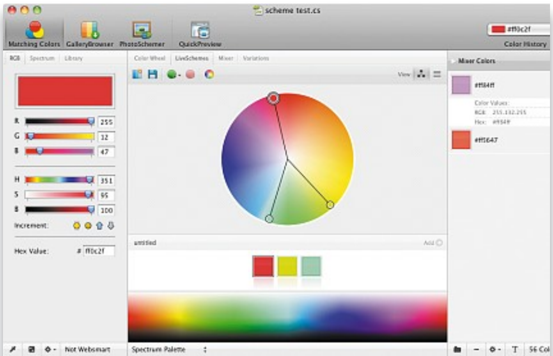
★★★★☆

"Highly impressive. Only the price and complex interface hold it back."

Although many designers and illustrators have a natural eye for colour, there's science behind great colour schemes. *ColorSchemer Studio* is an interactive colour wheel that provides shortcuts to creating schemes, enabling you to pull palettes from images, use a colour wheel to identify harmonies, preview colours via drag and drop into several pre-defined layouts, and export your creations in text or image formats.

Version 1 of the app was a little limited, but the new LiveScheme feature brings to mind Code Line's discontinued *Color Consultant Pro*, in that it enables you to pick a lead colour, then combine and experiment with various harmony types to create exciting colour schemes. Schemes can be accessed via the SchemeBrowser, which also offers several predefined schemes. New built-in colour management is another plus, and a great addition to the accessibility options, which include colour-blindness simulation and a contrast analyser.

Our only real criticism of *ColorSchemer Studio* is that it's quite complex to use. Newcomers may feel overwhelmed by the options, and the interface isn't always intuitive. However, 30 minutes or so in, things start making sense, and you'll likely find yourself living in the LiveSchemes section anyway. Also, the app's



Designers can build new colour palettes with ColorSchemer Studio.

perhaps a little pricey, but for a jobbing designer *ColorSchemer Studio* provides a robust, flexible toolkit for creating colour palettes, and as such comes recommended.

Craig Grannell

>> VIRTUAL NETWORK CLIENT

GoToMyPC for Mac

From £11.99 a month Connect to your Mac, no matter where you are in the world

Mac users with a MobileMe subscription may well be familiar with the Back to my Mac feature that enables you to connect to and use your Mac from another one anywhere in the world. But it only works between Macs, and chances are you'll only have access to a PC when you really need access to that one essential file. Step forward, *GoToMyPC for Mac*.

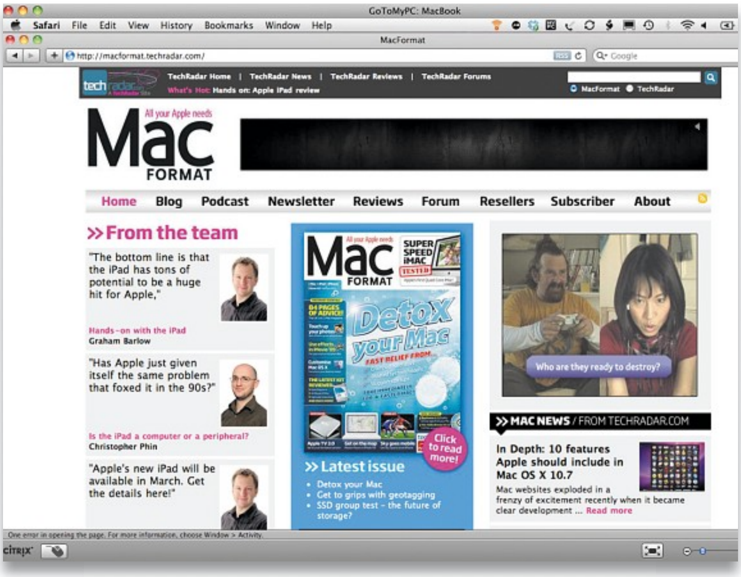
GoToMyPC has been available to PC users for some years. Now the company has made a version for Mac users, so you can connect to your home Mac from any computer anywhere, as long as it's on the internet and can run Java. The host Mac has to be running OS X 10.4 or later, but the client machine requirements are much lower. You need Windows 95 or later, or Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later, and you can even use it on Windows Mobile devices.

The price you pay

Installing the software onto your host Mac is easy, and setting up an account takes just a few seconds. But at £11.99 a month for one machine, you should make sure you'll use this service a lot. There's a discount for taking a year-long subscription, so you only pay £107.99 for 12 month's service. A two-machine account is £17.99 a month or £159.99 a year, with any additional devices charged at £8.99 a month or £79.98 a year.

> "Even if you've never used a PC before, there's nothing to worry about. Simply fire up the browser and you'll have a Mac in front of you"

We used the service on a few different PCs and it proved impressive. The connection is fast and smooth, with logins taking mere seconds. Simply navigate to the GoToMyPC website, log in and click on the computer you want to share. It really is easy. Even if you've never used a Windows PC before, there's nothing to worry about. Simply fire up the browser and in a few steps, you have your Mac in front of you.



>> From the team

"The bottom line is that the iPad has tons of potential to be a huge hit for Apple,"

Hands-on with the iPad
Graham Barlow

"Has Apple just given itself the same problem that foxed it in the 90s?"

Is the iPad a computer or a peripheral?
Christopher Phin

"Apple's new iPad will be available in March. Get the details here!"

>> Latest issue

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>> MAC NEWS / FROM TECHRADAR.COM

In Depth: 10 features Apple should include in Mac OS X 10.7

Mac websites exploded in a frenzy of excitement recently when it became clear development ... Read more

One error in opening the page. For more information, choose Window > Activity.

You can use the GoToMyPC service from Mac to Mac also. It's difficult to tell the two apart.

The screen can be used in a window or at full size, and it's very responsive. You can't watch video, but a slideshow works just fine. We even typed into *TextEdit* without any delay. There's no audio functionality as yet, so you can't use it to listen to your *iTunes* music or podcasts, but it's a feature on the PC version so we assume it'll make its way onto the Mac sometime in the future.

This isn't the only service of its kind available for the Mac, and the competition is much cheaper. *LogMeIn Free* is 100% cheaper in fact, and for one-off single users, it's just as good. Even the paid-for service *LogMeIn Pro* is less than *GoToMyPC*, at £7.20 a month or £41.20 a year for one machine. And that offers increased functionality, such as desktop sharing and file transfer.

With the competition offering a free service, there's not much reason for single-machine users to pay for *GoToMyPC*. If you have a larger base and perhaps want support, there's more of an argument for the service, but it's still more expensive and less feature-rich than *LogMeIn*.

Ailing economy

In isolation, *GoToMyPC* is really quick and simple to use, and lets you get on your Mac from anywhere in the world in an instant. However, once you look at the pricing and the additional features of *GoToMyPC*'s competition, it looks less economical. *GoToMyPC for Mac* works really well, but the cost is just a touch too much for our liking. It scores highly on usability, but fails on value for money.

Christopher Brennan

CONTACTS

Developer: Citrix Online
www.gotomypc.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: G4 processor or later
OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later
Other: Safari 3.0 or later

PROS & CONS

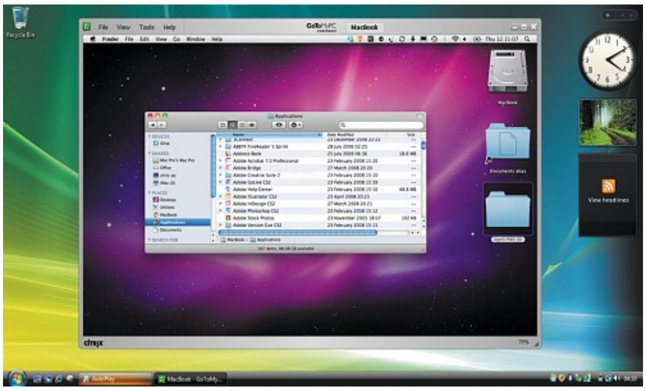
- ⊕ Fast
- ⊕ Easy to set up
- ⊕ Compatible
- ⊕ Secure
- ⊖ Expensive
- ⊖ Similar, free services available

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"It's fast and easy to set up, but it's more expensive than the competition and doesn't do as much."

This is how your Mac looks running inside a browser using the GoToMyPC website on a Windows PC.



>> SCREENCASTING STUDIO

Telestream ScreenFlow 2.0

$99 (£62) A single app for recording, editing and exporting screencasts

CONTACTS

Developer: Telestream
www.telestream.net/screen-flow

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later **Processor:** G5 or Intel CPU **Video card:** Quartz Extreme support required

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Great performance and usability
- ⊕ Transitions and effects
- ⊖ Some editing limitations
- ⊖ Text boxes, not titles

VERDICT

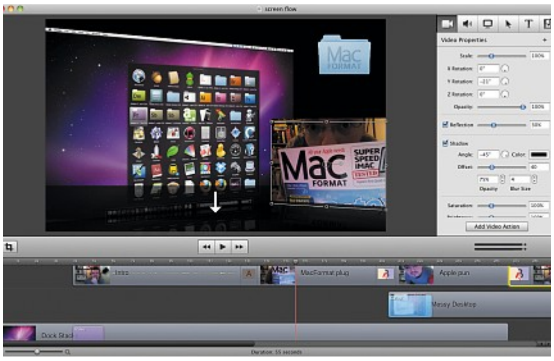
★★★★☆

"Recommended for any Mac user interested in creating screencasts."

While *QuickTime X* offers basic screen recording in Snow Leopard, *ScreenFlow* is an all-in-one solution, enabling you to record several sources at once – screen, camera, audio – and edit and export the results.

A year back, we liked *ScreenFlow 1.2*, and this is a strong upgrade, still offering excellent performance and a user-friendly editor. Control over video is improved via several new settings and features. There's basic colour correction and effects, such as rotation – previously a little abrupt – which can be softened via the Curve feature's 'ease' settings. A selection of 2D and 3D transitions is available to apply to overlaps, and the most baffling *ScreenFlow* limitation, the inability to move content between projects, is gone. You can now copy and paste between timelines or drag items between Media tabs.

Some niggles remain, however. Clips in the timeline can be split but not merged, and ⌥-dragging won't copy them. Effects can't be cloned but must be applied to each clip, and stage items must be dragged to



ScreenFlow makes it easy to add effects, edit and combine videos.

move them. The persistent lack of titles is a surprise too, although text boxes provide a basic alternative.

Audio effects and ducking mean you needn't process voiceovers in another app, and YouTube publishing has been added to export options. So for *ScreenFlow* fans, this is a no-brainer upgrade, and for newcomers it remains the best tool of its type. But it's still too pricey for dabblers.

Craig Grannell

>> FILE ORGANISER

Bare Bones Software Yojimbo 2.1

$39 (£24) Mac swamped in clutter you can't bear to throw away? This tool can tidy up

CONTACTS

Developer: Bare Bones Software
www.barebones.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.7 or later (10.5.8, 10.6.2 or later recommended)

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to set up and start using
- ⊕ Tags let you classify files
- ⊕ Integration with web browsers
- ⊖ Not all file types are supported

VERDICT

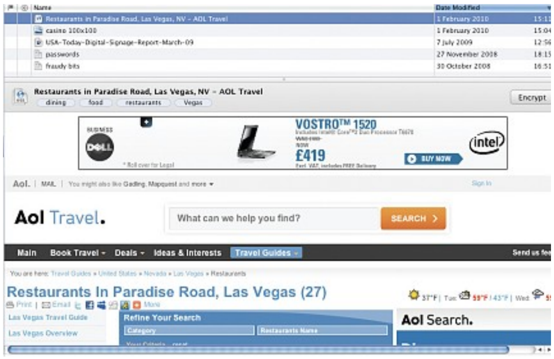
★★★★☆

"Efficiently sort out the files that lack a logical home on your Mac."

The founder of Bare Bones Software calls *Yojimbo* a 'digital junk drawer'. It's an honest description of a tool that won't transform your Mac life, but helps you rationalise and keep track of odd documents that inevitably accumulate on your hard drive.

You can copy files to *Yojimbo* in many text and image formats, as well as PDF and HTML, and tag them with descriptive keywords if you wish, then dump the originals in the Trash. Importing documents is easy, via either drag and drop or a dialog, and if you want to import a non-supported file type (such as a spreadsheet), you can print a PDF directly to *Yojimbo* from an app that does support it. Bookmarklets are also provided to let you export pages from your web browser into *Yojimbo*, and text or URLs can be dispatched from apps via keyboard shortcuts.

Once your junk is safely stored, you can search for tags or text, and use labelling and grouping options to bring order to the chaos. Other handy features include document encryption. It all works – everything is extremely configurable. The Help



Tags let you group, and search for, files according to user categories.

facility is useful, and you can sync with MobileMe. *Yojimbo* doesn't make you work hard – you can just use it as an alternative to a cluttered Desktop if you like, or take a more rigorous approach by tagging thoroughly. Version 2 brings new tagging features, as well as incremental improvements elsewhere. In the next upgrade, we'd like to see support for more file types.

Barnaby Page

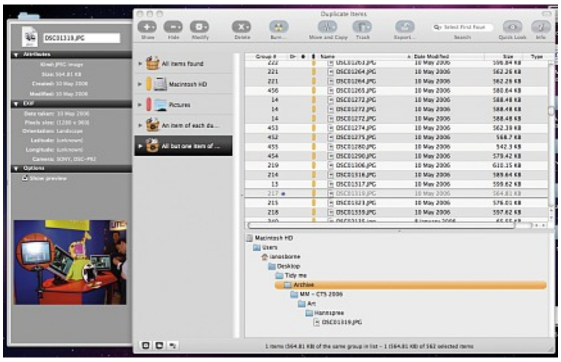
>> DUPLICATE FILE ELIMINATOR

Hyperbolic Software Tidy Up! 2.1.4

$30 (£24) File duplicates may have met their match, but it's a complex issue

As your hard drives fill with photos, music files, images, documents, movies and apps, you could waste substantial storage space by holding duplicate copies of the same file. *Tidy Up! 2* is here to seek them out. There's a comprehensive range of search modifiers on offer, and you can set specific exclusions, which is especially useful if you use *Time Machine*. On completing a search, you can manage or delete duplicates, with options to burn them to disc, archive in another location or label them in *Finder* for later identification, among other things. You can replace deleted files with aliases or symbolic links, which is excellent if you want to dump the duplicates but retain the overall organisation.

Although sleek, attractive and Mac-like, *Tidy Up! 2*'s interface is a bewildering warren of panes, collapsible listings, settings, inclusions, exclusions, options, modifiers and checkboxes. And that's just in Basic mode. It's easy to make contradictory selections and not even realise it, with your second selection negating your first.


Duplicate Items
All items found
Macintosh HD
Pictures

Tidy Up! 2 is comprehensive and powerful, but difficult to use.

Consulting the 83-page manual, you get the hang of it in the end, but you need to familiarise yourself with how it works before you can even begin to use it efficiently. But is it worth the effort? For systems managers and the technically minded, quite possibly. It's powerful, efficient and extremely versatile. Those who want something that just works should look elsewhere.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Developer: Hyperbolic Software
www.hyperbolicsoftware.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OSX 10.5 or later **Hard disk space:** 15.5MB

PROS & CONS

- + Extremely powerful
- + Very fast
- − Insanely user-hostile
- − Expensive

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A demanding app for clued-in users, but far from user-friendly."

>> ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

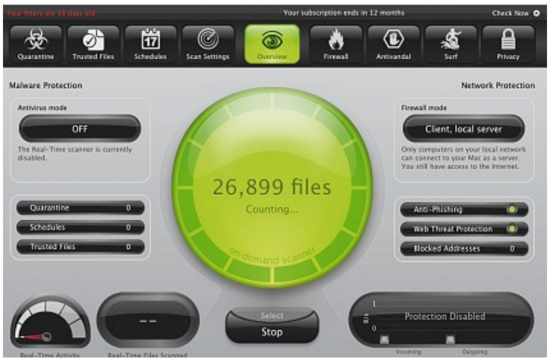
Intego VirusBarrier X6

£48 per year The power of two products in one package – but to what end?

When it comes to Mac security, Intego is a veteran, publishing blogs and bulletins as well as producing software. It even has the dubious honour of being taunted by a line of malware code; high praise indeed. They have now combined *VirusBarrier* and *NetBarrier* (a personal firewall) under one banner. Enter *VirusBarrier X6*.

We tested the Standard (two-user) version of *VirusBarrier X6* on a 2.4GHz Intel iMac and a 2.16GHz MacBook. As ever with Intego products, installation was smooth, with a separate uninstaller provided. Taking a quick perusal of the available preferences, we set up trusted zones – that is to say, files and folders that don't need scanning (why scan your backup when it's already been scanned?).

When we isolated both Macs from our network and introduced a selection of viruses to their hard disks, *VirusBarrier* responded with commendable alacrity. However, it needed directing to the actual files when the same viruses were inserted on a USB flash drive (a common source of infections), unlike *Norton AntiVirus*, which routinely takes a more aggressive approach.


Your subscription ends in 12 months
Check Now
Quarantine
Trusted Files
Schedules
Scan Settings
Overview
Firewall
Antivandal
Surf
Privacy
Malware Protection
Network Protection
Antivirus mode
OFF
Firewall mode
Client, local server
26,899 files
Counting...
Quarantine 0
Schedules 0
Trusted Files 0
Anti-Phishing
Web Threat Protection
Blocked Addresses 0
Select
Stop
Protection Disabled
Real-Time Activity
Real-Time Files Scanned
Incoming
Outgoing

The Real-Time scanner is currently disabled.

Only computers on your local network can connect to your Mac as a server. You still have access to the Internet.

Virusbarrier's sleek interface shows off an outrageous feature set.

We'd have to say that in combining features of *VirusBarrier* and *NetBarrier*, Intego has over-egged the pudding, producing a product that's over-complex for the general user. A free product such as *ClamXAV* (www.clamxav.com) plus judicious changes to Mac OS X's own settings would work for most of us.

Trevor Middleton

CONTACTS

Developer: Intego
www.intego.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5 or later; fully compatible with OS X 10.5 Leopard and 10.6 Snow Leopard. Not supported for use on Mac OS X Server. **Hard disk space:** 100MB

PROS & CONS

- + Not too demanding on system
- − Over-complex interface
- − Bewildering number of options
- − Expires after 12 months

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"We don't doubt its competence, but who needs its complexity?"

>> FULL-SCREEN WRITING TOOL

myTexts snow 1.6

€14 (£12.50) Another full-screen writing app enters the fray

>> ON THE DISC
You can find all these program's on the disc.

CONTACTS

Developer: MOApp Software
http://createlivelove.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5.8+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Innovative and responsive
- ⊕ Optional DropBox sync
- ⊖ Feels awkward and alien
- ⊖ Sidebar options too limited

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

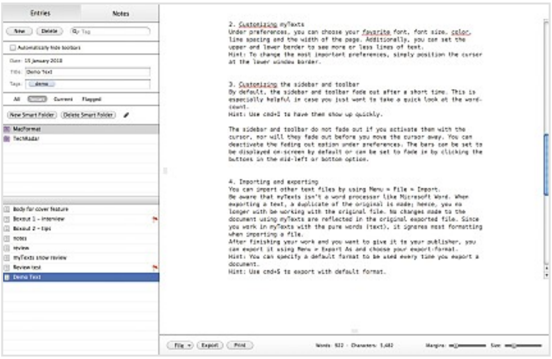
"We admire innovation, but the end result here proves disappointing."

Fans of distraction-free writing are well catered for on the Mac. Full-screen editor *WriteRoom* is excellent, and the superb *Scrivener* offers a similar mode, as does *Pages* and the idiosyncratic 'writing environment' *OmmWriter*. *myTexts snow* is another option in this field, although one perhaps even more unconventional than *OmmWriter*.

In a way, *myTexts snow* feels more like an iPhone app than a desktop one – it abstracts file management, aiming to be an all-inclusive environment. The sidebar enables you to title and tag documents (or 'entries') and also acts as the means for accessing previous work. Smart folders can be used to group entries based on tags, or you can manually select an item from the list at the foot of the sidebar.

When it comes to writing, *myTexts snow* is competent and responsive. The main writing area optionally highlights the current paragraph and feels much like a speedy typewriter. The toolbar offers word and character counts, sliders for amending margins around text, and access to File, Export and Print buttons. And although the app workspace is plain text only, you can open *Word* documents and export to RTF, ODT, PDF, DOC, DOCX and other formats.

The problem is the overall approach feels alien and isn't sleek enough to warrant perseverance. The inability to sort sidebar entries is a bizarre omission and the search field can't search within documents. *WriteRoom* and *Scrivener* are superior writing tools.
Craig Grannell



Date: 15 January 2010
Title: Demo Text
Tags: demo

2. Customizing myTexts
Under preferences, you can choose your favorite font, font size, color, line spacing and the width of the page. Additionally, you can set the upper and lower border to see more or less lines of text.
Hint: To change the most important preferences, simply position the cursor at the lower window border.

3. Customizing the sidebar and toolbar
By default, the sidebar and toolbar fade out after a short time. This is especially helpful in case you just want to take a quick look at the word-count.
Hint: Use cmd+I to have them show up quickly.

The sidebar and toolbar do not fade out if you activate them with the cursor, nor will they fade out before you move the cursor away. You can deactivate the fading out option under preferences. The bars can be set to be displayed on-screen by default or can be set to fade in by clicking the buttons in the mid-left or bottom option.

4. Importing and exporting
You can import other text files by using Menu > File > Import.
Be aware that myTexts isn't a word processor like Microsoft Word. When exporting a text, a duplicate of the original is made; hence, you no longer will be working with the original file. No changes made to the document using myTexts are reflected in the original exported file. Since you work in myTexts with the pure words (text), it ignores most formatting when importing a file.
After finishing your work and you want to give it to your publisher, you can export it using Menu > Export As and choose your export-format.
Hint: You can specify a default format to be used every time you export a document.
Hint: Use cmd+S to export with default format.

Words: 522 · Characters: 3,482

myTexts snow minimalism – perhaps a little too minimal at times.

>> PROXIMITY-BASED SECURITY TOOL

Airlock 1.0.1

$7.77 (£5) Use your iPhone to lock your Mac

CONTACTS https://themha.com/airlock/index.html?s=d

Airlock is a proximity-based security tool, which uses a Bluetooth connection with an iPhone or iPod touch to lock a Mac's screen. The theory is: wander off, iPhone in hand, and your Mac will be secured; on returning, your Mac will unlock, ready for use.

The reality of *Airlock* is less clear-cut. We had no trouble getting it to register our iPhone 3GS, and a slick radar scanner 'activation range' dialog enabled a lock distance to be set. However, the Mac didn't automatically unlock until we disabled our wireless mouse. A full restart was required to get *Airlock* working, and even then it took five seconds for the Mac to lock or unlock. Also, the app proves troublesome if you have a screensaver also set to lock your Mac, so avoid that.

Ultimately, *Airlock* is an interesting idea, but it currently feels like a tech demo. It has a great interface and all the right settings: a manual login override; items can be opened when your device goes out of range or comes in range; and a search timeout can be set. But the app is currently flaky, so we can't recommend it.
Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Interesting in theory but less so in practice – nevertheless, it's an idea with potential."

>> SYSTEM-WIDE ADDRESS BOOK SEARCH

TapDex 4.0

Free One-tap access to your contacts

CONTACTS www.yellowmug.com/tapdex/

TapDex provides system-wide access to contact information in *Address Book*. The app installs as a *System Preferences* pane. Fire it up, define a hotkey and your chosen shortcut brings up the *TapDex* search window. Type a few characters, hit ↩ and items within *Address Book* matching your string are displayed. You can then click a URL or email address to open it in a browser or email client, or click a phone number to display it in large text.

In use, *TapDex* works fairly well, although there's no getting away from the fact it's somewhat ugly (despite options being available to edit colours). The app also lacks important options – there should be a setting that enables you to keep *TapDex* on screen while you access another app; instead, it fades when you switch. The only other options are available when you 'go pro' for $4.95 (about £3), although these are merely for hiding the relatively unobtrusive sponsor's message and enabling Vonage dialling. Had integration with *Skype* been on offer, paying a few quid for the upgrade might have been more tempting.
Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Not bad if you're forever in Address Book, but essentially you get what you pay for."

Issue 212
September 2009

Save money on an iPhone
MobileMe investigated
Make iPhone ringtones
New MacBook Air reviewed

On the disc
CoverScout 2, Aiko 4 Starter Pack, Style Master 4.6

Issue 213
October 2009

101 best-ever Mac tips
Final Cut Studio reviewed
Making music on Mac
Monitor group test

On the disc
Carrara 6 Pro, Finance 5.0, plus tutorial files and more

Issue 214
November 2009

The new iPod nano
App Store controversy
Get to grips with iTunes 9
Work smarter in OS X

On the disc
Trax OS, QuickApps 1, KavaServices 3

Issue 215
December 2009

20 Mac problems sorted
iPhone GPS apps tested
Make a podcast jingle
Portable HD group test

On the disc
GrupaDupa 1.0.3, SWF Encrypt 4, Twit Menulet 4

Issue 216
January 2010

Ultimate guide to iPhoto
Get fit with iPhone
Master Mac OS X file sharing
10 Apple milestones

On the disc
Advanced Link Manager, New Star Soccer, Crayon Ball

Issue 217
February 2010

Sort photos using GPS
Investigating Apple TV 3.0
Solid-state drive group test
Customise Mac OS X

On the disc
AppDelete 2.2.3, Mac-HaBu Bronze 10.3.2 and more

Back issues

Want to order a back issue of MacFormat? Hurry – stock is limited!

You've only just missed...

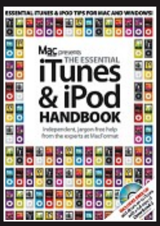
Issue 218 / March 2010

Never lose a file again!
A complete guide to backing up your Mac

Plus...
Add other operating systems
How to back up online
Organise your social networking sites
Add frames to pics in Photoshop
Speed up clips in iMovie
The top 10 iPhone apps

On the disc
Archive 5.5.1, Fresh 1.2.2, NTFS for Mac 6.5 Express, top shareware and more

Why not also try these...



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iPhone

» MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Favorites
Remote
Keypad
CH
Last
Options
Disconnect
slingplayer

SlingPlayer goes 3G

AT&T, Apple's US partner for the iPhone, has announced that it will allow video to be streamed over its 3G network from Sling Media's hardware video encoders to the *SlingPlayer* app on the iPhone. "AT&T has been testing the app and has notified Apple that the optimised app can run on its 3G network," it said.

Amputees and other survivors rest in cots in a te
Port-au-Prince

Photograph: Andres Leighton/AP

I, Guardian!

While many media outlets are trying to work out how to charge for their content (many give away their apps for free) the *Guardian* is touting the success it has had with its paid-for iPhone app. Downloaded 68,979 times in its first month, the £2.39 app (reviewed last issue) grossed an average of almost £5,500 every day of the first 30 days it was available.

» SUITE OF APPS

App Genie

£0.59 Turn your iPhone into… um… everything?

There's an unwritten rule in iPhone app design (well, Daring Fireball's John Gruber wrote it, but it's not like it's an Apple diktat) that 'success comes from working out the minimum your app needs to do, then polishing the hell out of it'.

App Genie doesn't. It's the quintessential jack of all trades, and while, yes, it's master of none, it's impossible for us not to recommend it given its insane price. We tried to measure it on our bang-for-buckometer, and it exploded.

It has a barcode scanner, which seems to be foxed by more products than *RedLaser*, and, also, it doesn't appear to query Amazon. There's also a unit converter, a checklist module, a currency converter, a (ropey) translator and a tip calculator.

> *"It's the quintessential jack of all trades, impossible for us not to recommend given its insane price…"*

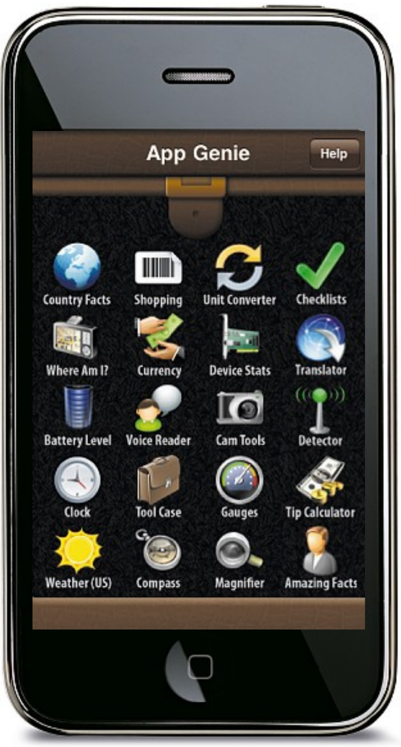
But wait, that's not all!

There's a bunch of device stuff, including a battery meter (which gives projected remaining times for talk, standby and so on) and some hardware stats. A magnifier that (grainily) blows up what the camera's seeing, you can enter some text for it to speak, or launch the speaking clock.

But wait, that's still not all!

It adds a tap-anywhere-shutter mode to the camera, a (frankly useless) shake to take pic, and the ability to trigger the shutter with a sharp sound. There's a gauge to measure speed, and one to assess how loud your surroundings are. Oh, and there's a sub-suite of plumb-bobs, torches and spirit levels. There's even a metal detector.

Frankly, you get the idea. We could quote you apps that work better, feel slicker, and show more attention to detail, but there's no doubt that in creating such a packed app, the developer has redefined 'value for money' in an iPhone app. ●


App Genie
Help
Country Facts
Shopping
Unit Converter
Checklists
Where Am I?
Currency
Device Stats
Translator
Battery Level
Voice Reader
Cam Tools
Detector
Clock
Tool Case
Gauges
Tip Calculator
Weather (US)
Compass
Magnifier
Amazing Facts

CONTACTS

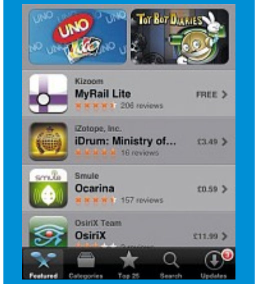
Developer: GP Imports

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Breathtaking in its scope. Phenomenal in its value. Each module is… OK."

» DOWNLOAD THESE APPS


UNO
Toy Bot Diaries
Featured
Categories
Top 25
Search
Updates

Kizoom
MyRail Lite FREE
206 reviews

iZotope, Inc.
iDrum: Ministry of… £3.49
16 reviews

Smule
Ocarina £0.59
157 reviews

OsiriX Team
OsiriX £11.99

You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>> VIDEO FOR OLD iPHONES

Qik VideoCamera

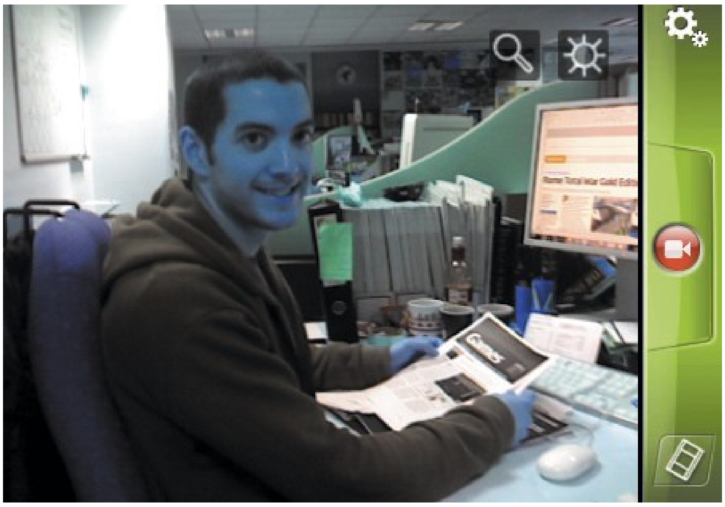
Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£0.59 Get video recording on your pre-3GS iPhone!

With *Qik VideoCamera* anybody can add video recording to the original and 3G iPhone. It shoots up to 15fps .mov videos and is packed with features such as digital zoom, volume and brightness boost and fun video effects, which includes turning people's skin blue, so they look like *Avatar's* Na'vi (or maybe just a bit odd). Video resolution is limited to 400x304 or 200x152 and it can be used in both portrait and landscape mode. *Qik* contains its own gallery of clips, or you can export them to your Camera Roll or email them right from the app. Our favourite feature though is the IP address it generates, which you simply type into your Mac's browser to download the videos wirelessly without having to sync them to your iPhone.

Because of the inferior camera and slower processor on older iPhones, the videos *Qik* produces will never compare to the iPhone 3GS's quality. In fact they're pretty poor, but it's a lot better than having no video at all. ●

VERDICT
★★★★★
"The best app for adding video recording to old iPhones. Incredible value at 59p!"



MacFormat team member Tim's secret Smurf fetish is revealed during his tea break.

>> WEATHER APP

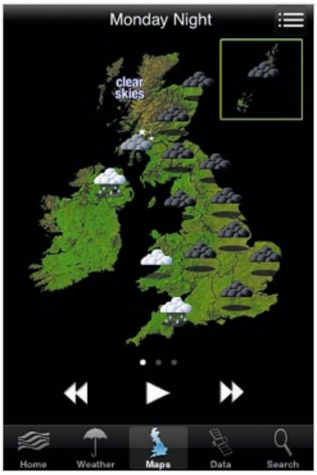
Met Office Weather

£FREE Official weather advice for the UK

The built-in *Weather* app on the iPhone is perfectly good enough for getting a quick overview of what the weather's going to get up to over the next five days. But, saying that, *Met Office Weather* is an app that's really worth installing, and not just because it's free.

Because it's the official app of the UK Meteorological Office, the data's as good as you're going to get. (Yes, it's often a bit off; but, as you'll know, the British weather's a particularly tricky thing to predict.) You get forecasts and animated satellite maps of weather patterns.

However, the interface feels ugly and distinctly un-iPhone-like, and, while our experience was fine, some have reported instability. The app will offer to set your location automatically, but tends to dump you over in London regardless. However, fret not, as you can set your location manually. ●



VERDICT
★★★½☆
"It's a bit of a dog at times, but the data's good, and the app's free."

>> BILLING TOOL

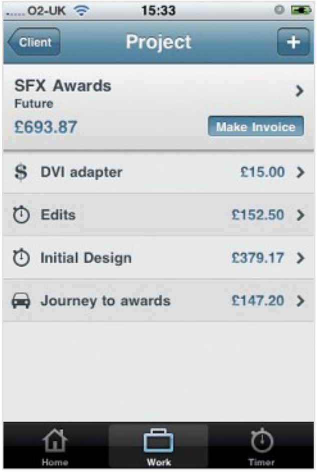
Billings Touch

£FREE Track your time and expenses

Time may be money, but keeping track of how long you've spent on a client – or the expenses you've racked up on the job – can be tricky; *Billings Touch* helps. You create clients – optionally sucking in details from a contact in your address book – projects and jobs, and then simply start adding expenses. It supports travel expenses, other fixed expenses and, crucially, timed slips, where you set an hourly fee and start and stop the clock as you work on projects. (It even keeps tracking when the app is closed.)

Clever and useful touches abound, despite the surprising complexity of billing. The home screen that tracks hours and money is particularly welcome.

It costs £8.99 to unlock the ability to send invoices directly from the app and sync with the Mac version. ●

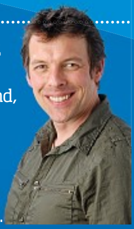


SFX Awards
Future
£693.87

$ DVI adapter	£15.00
Edits	£152.50
Initial Design	£379.17
Journey to awards	£147.20

VERDICT
★★★★½
"Even without syncing, this is terrific. (And if £9's too much, your business is in trouble.)"

Games



» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU
Andy Dyer is a legend, having worked on many games mags. He now gets his gaming fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

● ACTION & ARCADE ● PUZZLE & STRATEGY ● ONLINE ADVENTURE ● iPHONE GAMES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Retro racer

If you're at that stage in life where you have to start thinking about the state of your health, you'll probably be just about the right age to remember *3D Death Chase* on the Sinclair Spectrum. This is pretty much the same thing but with vector graphics. Tilt to steer, survive as long as you can and score as many points as possible without hitting stuff. Simple, but ludicrously addictive.

The new gamer's testament

We all love the *Guinness Book of World Records.* And now the third edition of the fantastic *Gamers' Edition* is in the shops. It's packed with juicy tidbits like the fact that *Wii Sports* is the bestselling game of all time. The 2010 edition boasts new features and an interview with Nintendo legend Shigeru Miyamoto. **www.guinnessworldrecords.com.**

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2010
GAMER'S EDITION

» SPORTS PREVIEW

Tiger, tiger burning bright

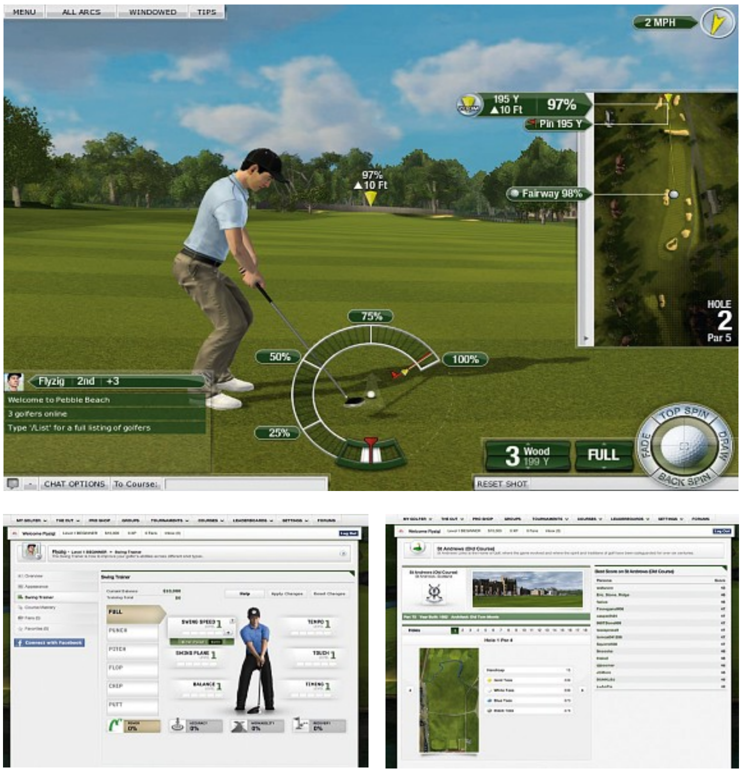
Now you can play on the PGA Tour without clogging up your hard drive

Tiger Woods PGA Tour Online is a full-function golf game played through your browser. Ultimately it will be subscription-based, but at the time of writing the game is still in open beta, so you can sign up and play for zero pence.

All you need is a Mac and a small nugget of software (called the *Unity Engine*) that enables you to play the game within your browser window.

Far from being some stripped-down approximation of golf, this is a fully-fledged PGA title, but without the accompanying disc and packaging. You can play either in windowed or full-screen mode and there's a full set of graphic settings to optimise it for your system. On the highest detail levels the scenery is spectacular and you soon forget you're even playing a browser-based game.

> *"All you need is a Mac and a small nugget of software to let you play the game within your browser"*



Welcome to Pebble Beach
3 golfers online
Type '/List' for a full listing of golfers

How is your swing? Timing is everything when activating the power bar, so concentrate!

There are six courses available in this open beta: Pebble Beach, Sheshan, Sawgrass, St Andrews, Wolf Creek and Wentworth. It's a good idea to get some practice in on the swing trainer too. As you play you can earn awards and money. Awards include your first birdie, a 250-yard drive and so on. As you accrue more money you can customise your golfer and unlock additional features.

The gameplay is precisely what you'd expect. But golf is as much a social activity as a sport, so you'll want to check out the multiplayer options as well as the one-day, weekly and major tournaments.

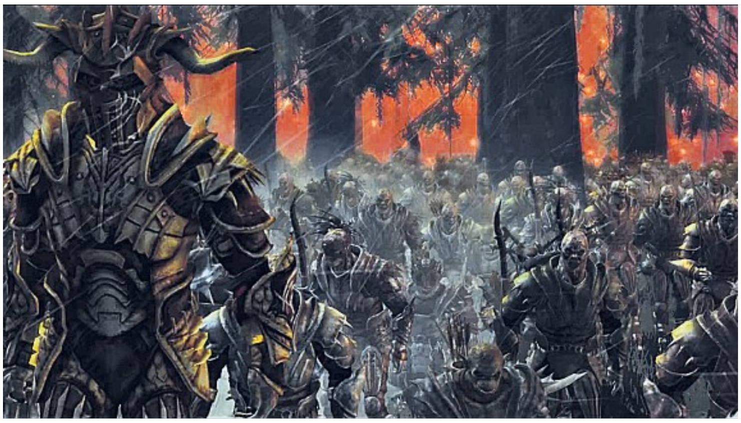
If by the time you read this the beta version has closed, there's still a single course demo to try out and we strongly urge you to do so. *PGA Tour Online* seems to be a glimpse of great things to come in the world of online gaming. The most amazing thing of all though is that we've managed to get to the end of this preview without making an infidelity joke even once. ●

>>STRATEGY RPG

Dragon Age Origins

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£40 (Deluxe edition) The greatest and bloodiest adventure ever to come to Macs



Darkspawn are demonic creatures that live underground. Not to be confused with munchkins.

Rarely does a major PC and console release make it to the Mac even within a year. But EA and Transgaming have, in their wisdom, blessed us with the almost simultaneous release across multiple systems, including Mac, of their epic new RPG *Dragon Age Origins*. Let's hope this becomes a trend because we can say right now, up front, that Transgaming's Mac build of the game seems to run without any significant issues, begging the question: why have we had to wait so long in the past?

Never mind, this is a time for celebration, not interrogation, although before we get on with the gaming festivities we do just have to question the wisdom of making *Dragon Age Origins* compatible only with Snow Leopard. This must surely limit the potential market given that Apple's latest version of OS X went on sale only last August and locks out the significant numbers of Mac owners who have yet to upgrade their systems.

> *"Multiple scenes add greatly to the replay value of the game, but they also make for some detailed characterisation"*

That's the negative stuff pretty much out of the way, because if you do own a machine capable of running it, *Dragon Age Origins* is a belter. Developer BioWare has in the past created adventures based on the *Dungeons and Dragons* franchise. This time around it has developed its own play system and a new Eclipse game engine. The absence of the *D&D* affiliation in no way represents a loss to the player, though: *Dragon Age Origins* has the DNA of a classic fantasy role-playing game running right through it.

History repeated

The overarching premise of the game is that demonic creatures called Darkspawn – who spread a blight across the world 400 years previously – are about to return, and once again it's up to heroic warriors called Grey Wardens to rally support and fight off the evil-doers. Your character is a trainee Grey Warden.

However, plot specifics change depending on your choice of character race and class. So if, for the sake of argument, you choose to play as a City Elf, you will begin the adventure as a second-class citizen whose wedding plans are violently disrupted by your human overlords. What follows is a brief tale of revenge that represents your character's origin story before the game segues into the adventure proper. Another choice of character will result in an entirely different back-story. Not only do these multiple scenarios add greatly to the replay value of the game, but they also make for some detailed characterisation, which is really what distinguishes *Dragon Age Origins* from other fantasy RPGs.

The characters, while conforming to traditional fantasy types, are fully rounded individuals, each with a detailed back-story. Non-player characters are convincingly portrayed too, so that when you encounter an unsympathetic character, or lose a valued party member, genuine emotions are stirred.

Love to delegate

The gameplay is similarly well-crafted and combat is particularly enjoyable. Individuals can wield dual weapons, two-handed broadswords and axes, or used ranged weapons and magical attacks. You can also assign individual roles to party members, appointing some to close combat and others to ranged attacks.

We haven't the space here to even scratch the surface of customisation and levelling-up options. But rest assured, these are every bit as well executed as the rest of the game. In short, *DAO* is a stunning achievement. The beautifully realised world, detailed characterisation and deeply satisfying gameplay all add up to a genre-topping first-rate adventure. ●

CONTACTS

Publisher: www.ea.com www.gametreeonline.com **Developer:** BioWare www.bioware.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.6.2 Snow Leopard or higher **Processor** Intel Core 2 Duo processor **RAM:** 2GB RAM, ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 or higher, **Hard disk space:** 17GB **Other:** Game will NOT run on PowerPC (G3/G4/G5) based Mac systems, PowerMacs, or those with Intel GMA (950 or X3100) integrated video

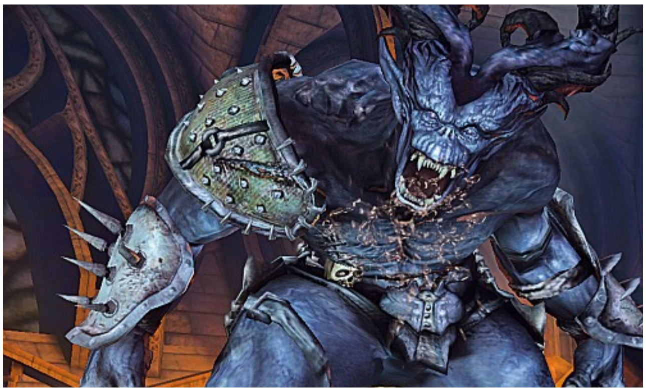
PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Beautiful environments
- ⊕ Fascinating character origins
- ⊕ Interesting NPCs
- ⊕ Rewarding combat
- ⊕ Loads of customisation
- ⊖ Only runs on Snow Leopard

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The best fantasy adventure on Mac by a mile. Other developers are going to have to up their game considerably."



RPG fans will be salivating at the prospect of playing Dragon Age Origins on their Mac.

>>STRATEGY WAR GAME

Rome: Total War Gold Edition

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£20 An epic war game that places you in the thick of the action

CONTACTS

Publisher: Feral
www.feralinteractive.com
Developer: Sega
www.sega.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 **Processor:** Intel 1.6GHz **RAM:** 512MB RAM, 128MB VRAM, **Hard disk space:** 5GB **Other:** DVD drive, GMA graphics cards supported

PROS & CONS

- + Two-tiered gameplay
- + Truly epic battles
- + Get stuck right in
- + Fun historical scenarios
- − Cut-scenes are terrible
- − A few control niggles

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A spectacular and uniquely involving wargame experience."

PC gamers have been enjoying *Rome: Total War* for a few years now but the release of the *Gold Edition* on Mac is still something to get excited about. This edition (which includes the *Barbarian Invasion* expansion pack) remains as engrossing and impressive as when it first hit computer screens back in 2004.

History buffs might find the shots here slightly familiar. That's because a version of the game engine was originally used in the BBC TV series *Time Commanders* in which different teams attempted to recreate great historical conflicts.

The opportunity to do the same at home is something to be relished. *RTW*'s Roman setting is a gift for anyone who's ever wanted to experience the grandeur of this historical period. Taking place a few hundred years before the birth of Christ, the game follows the fortunes of three Roman families, the Julii, Brutii and Scipii as they vie for power in the region and attempt to become the controlling force and the head of the burgeoning empire.

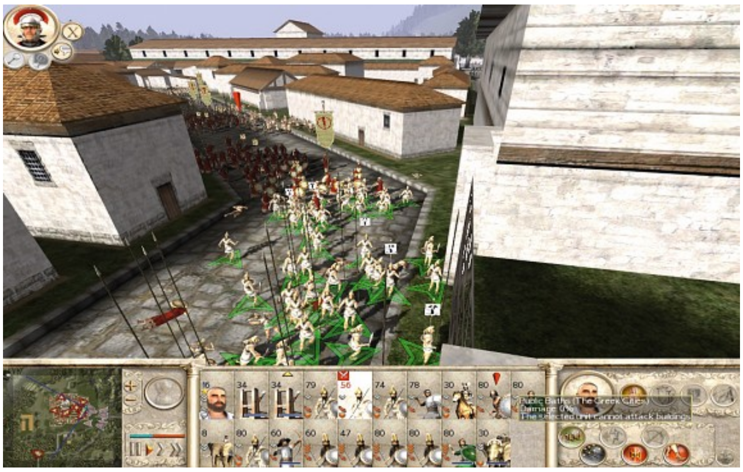
Part of what makes *RTW* so fascinating is its two-tiered gameplay structure. On the one hand you have the campaign map, which is a large-scale overview of the region from which you can see neighbouring factions and manage your own settlements. When things turn sour, though, the action zooms in to view the battlefield close up, placing you right in the thick of the conflict.

Even on the campaign map there are several factors that demand your attention. Firstly there's the task of keeping your settlements happy. By maintaining growth and a healthy income, your settlements will serve you well in terms of feeding your grander plans of domination. Allow your populace to become unhappy, however, and rebellions will soon begin to chip away at the stability of your resources. There's another side to the campaign map, though, and that is strategically controlling your troop movements. Until you get down to the business of actually fighting, you use the campaign map to move units in order to attack other armies, lay siege to other settlements or to defend existing settlements that might be under threat. This is turn-based and in itself is a thoroughly absorbing pastime. But once battle commences, things really heat up.

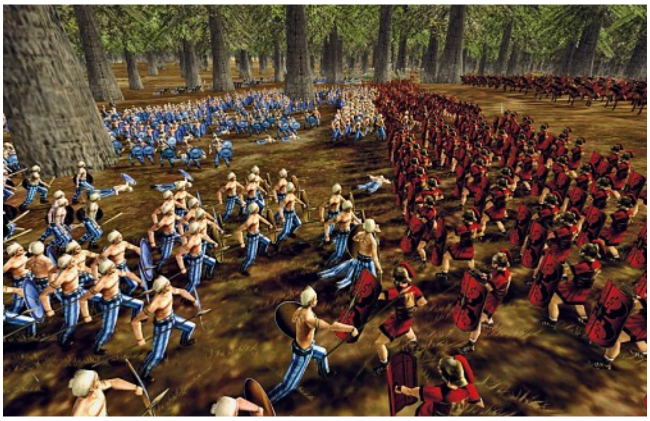
The game places you right on the battlefield, so the surrounding environment that was viewed in sketchy map form on the campaign view is now all around you in 3D. Things also switch from turn-based to real time, so as you rotate, scroll and zoom in and out of the action, you can manipulate your units on the fly, sending your spearmen to form an initial blockade, positioning archers behind them, and flanking the enemy with cavalry and infantry. The real joy of *RTW*, though, is that rather than moving sterile little tiles or generic icons around, you're actually issuing orders to hundreds upon hundreds of individually modelled soldiers. Send the cavalry on a charge and you can zoom in and follow them as their pounding hooves take them thundering into the enemy. As you're doing so, you'll see and hear countless arrows zipping past your ears. You can even watch your men position, prime and fire catapults into the walls of a city under siege. You can also take part in standalone scenarios that recreate great battles from history.

Rome Total War has its flaws – appalling cut-scenes and slightly awkward camera controls among them – but thanks to its epic sweep, these fade into the background. ●

> *"Use the campaign map to move units in order to attack other armies, lay siege to existing settlements or defend those under threat"*



War breaks out on the streets of Carthage! The downside of round-the-clock drinking licences.



Gauls often turned up to battle in pyjama bottoms to unnerve the enemy hordes.

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I SAW.
I CONQUERED."
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www.sega.co.uk

>> BUY ONLINE

You can download these iPhone and iPod touch games from the App Store.

>> iPOD TOUCH/iPHONE SANDBOX GAME

Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars

£5.99 A life of crime has never been more affordable

Chinatown Wars, while featuring 3D visuals, uses the top-down view of the original game and features cel-shaded graphics. Gameplay-wise, there's little to distinguish this from the DS and PSP versions. It's basically the same game, but with controls tweaked to suit the system.

The camera occasionally gets a little confused and the driving controls are a touch sensitive, but these are minor irritants in what is otherwise a substantial and superbly crafted game. The illustrative elements, cut-scenes, environments and missions are every bit as involving as those in the major *GTA* releases. A spectacular release and massive respect to Rockstar. ●

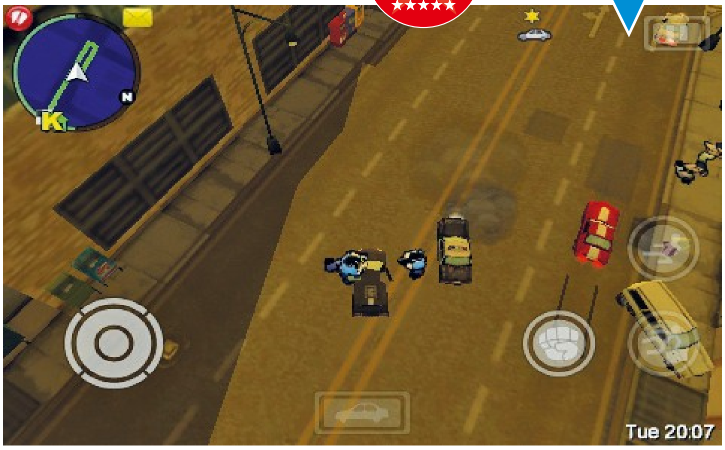
CONTACTS

Developer: Rockstar
Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A criminally good version of GTA for the iPhone."



Outmanoeuvre the cops and pick your automobile of choice from the gullibly law-abiding public.

>> iPOD TOUCH/iPHONE FIRST PERSON SHOOTER

N.O.V.A Near Orbit Vanguard Alliance

£3.99 The best iPhone FPS yet?

We've had a few decent first/third-person shooters on iPhone now, but Gameloft's brand-new effort is possibly the best yet. Multiple internal and external environments are reminiscent of *Halo* and the gameplay, while doing nothing innovative, is engineered with panache.

The story typically features a lone space marine and a bunch of aliens, but the superb gameplay papers over the narrative cracks. The scenery is gorgeous, there's a solid arsenal of weapons, enemies are both intimidating and intelligent and best of all, there's an online multiplayer mode! ●

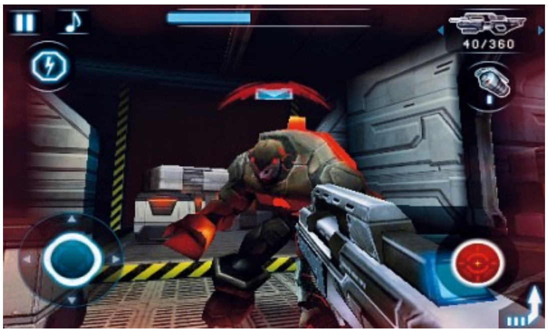
CONTACTS

Developer: Gameloft
Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A full-on shooter with a great online multiplayer mode."



If you're into FPS games, this is the one to grab for your iPhone.

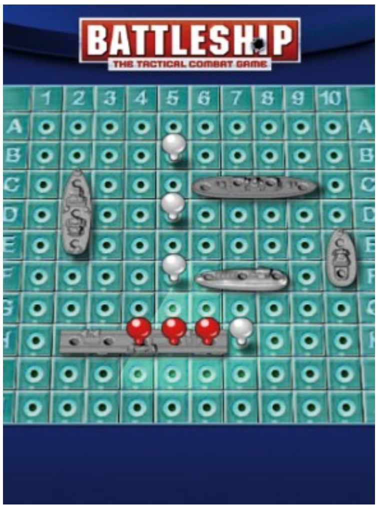
>> iPOD TOUCH/iPHONE STRATEGY

Battleship

£1.79 iPhone gamers get that sinking feeling

Unless you've played the game with pen and paper, you won't fully appreciate this iPhone version. In the old days, two players would draw various battleships on graph paper then call out grid references to see if their missiles had scored a hit or not.

Later, Milton Bradley made a fun, but large and cumbersome, electronic version of it. Now the game has found its perfect home, thanks to Hasbro and EA. As well as the basic gameplay, this version also boasts salvo and superweapon modes, featuring multiple attacks, airstrikes, mines and the like. Graphically, the game is spiced up with smart cut-scenes depicting weapons being fired and ships sinking, and there's multiplayer fun to be had across local networks. *Battleship* isn't everyone's ration of rum, but love it or loathe it, it's hard to see how the classic game could have been any better implemented on iPhone. ●



CONTACTS

Developer: Electronic Arts
Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A perfect version of the classic pen and paper game."

Mac FORMAT

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Printed in the UK by
Polestar Group on behalf of Future.
Distributed in the UK by
Seymour Distribution Ltd
2 East Poultry Avenue
London, EC1A 9PT
Tel: 0207 429 4000

Future produces carefully targeted special-interest magazines, websites and events for people who share a passion. We publish more than 170 magazines and websites and 100 international editions of our titles are published across the world.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR).

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ALL THIS AND MORE!

Contents subject to change

Mac FORMAT
ON SALE
Wednesday
31 March
2010

Carving a niche: the bridge camera has established a market of its own in a short time.

Photography by Joby Sessions

>> DIGITAL BRIDGE CAMERAS

Bridging the gap

Compact camera limiting you? SLR sounding scary? **Christopher Phin** might just have the solution

>> DID YOU KNOW?

SanDisk
8GB
micro SD HC

This 8GB microSDHC card, shown here at actual size, which you could buy today for less than £10 at Amazon, holds as much data as a stack of 3.5-inch floppy disks almost 60 ft high. (What's more, even at today's prices, that many floppy disks would set you back £17,000, though we imagine you would get a bulk discount…)

When you start to feel like your compact camera is holding you back, or you're just not happy with the pictures and video it shoots, it's time to upgrade. But if you're not ready for the investment or complexity of an SLR camera, you should consider a bridge camera.

Also called superzooms because of their epic zoom lenses, or 'prosumer' cameras – a term for the ambitious or more competent enthusiast – the models in this group test all feature long lenses, above-average picture quality and a range of manual controls to play with when you're ready to move beyond auto mode.

The models we've chosen are all around £300. Indeed, with the exception of the model from – surprise surprise – Sony, all of them are under that price.

While some view this class of camera as an expensive red herring – just spend the little extra and buy an SLR, they say – we can see the appeal after spending some weeks with them. Not only are they less threatening than the potentially confusing (and expensive!) world of SLR, you get a fair bit for your money. The zoom of the lenses makes them all terrific for getting up close to subjects from afar. But best of all, they all have good stabilisation to reduce shake at long focal lengths.

> *"They may not be as pocket-friendly as compacts, but it's a worthy compromise in return for the zoom and creative control"*

They may not be as pocket-friendly as compacts, but it's a compromise worth making in return for the zoom and creative control these models offer.

On test this issue

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS £296

Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR £298

Kodak EasyShare Z980 £267

Olympus SP-590UZ £259

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38 £265

Samsung WB5000 £260

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1 £339

CANON ZOOM LENS 20x IS 5.0-100mm 1:2.8-5.7
20x OPTICAL ZOOM

The Canon comes across as a tad bulky, but at least the buttons are well laid out.

»TEST ONE

Design

Design's about engineering as much as aesthetics

The model from Fujifilm looms over this group; it's bulky and heavy. It feels, in fact, like a full-blown SLR, and while you might like its heft if your hands are especially big, for us it felt like an bad design decision. If you're going to saddle yourself with a camera this chunky, just buy an SLR and give yourself the flexibility of interchangeable lenses.

The Samsung WB5000, by contrast, feels light, compact and well built. Indeed, the models from Sony and Panasonic also feel good in the hand. Canon's effort feels a little bulbous (and quite weighty) in the hands, but it's well laid out.

Kodak's model disappoints the most here, however. Not only does it use cheap-feeling plastics, but it looks dull. (It is, however, the only model here to include a second shutter for portrait pictures.)

The models from Canon and Sony have ergonomic displays that pivot to help you shoot from awkward angles.

»TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★☆☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★★☆☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★☆☆☆☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★★★☆☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★★☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★★
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★★☆

»TEST TWO

Specifications

If it was down to spec sheets, who would top the test?

There's little to differentiate these cameras on paper, which is a mark of how stable this market is. With a few exceptions, the models in this group have a resolution of around 12 megapixels, an optical zoom in excess of 20x, movie capability and image stabilisation.

The Sony, surprisingly, has a resolution of only 9.1 megapixels, but while that counts against it in a strict spec battle, it's not necessarily a bad thing. And despite its colossal size, the Fujifilm model has a measly 14x optical zoom, equivalent to 436mm at its longest, some way short of the others at over 600mm.

The Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR drops points, as does the Olympus, for only recording VGA video; all others do 720 HD. It's great to see so many in this group capable of shooting RAW for editing flexibility. The models from Canon, Olympus and Sony can only write JPEG. Finally, kudos to Panasonic and Samsung for such light cameras.

»TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★★☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★★☆☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★★★★☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★★★☆☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★★☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★★
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★☆☆

EasyShare Z980
Capture
Picture Size
Picture Quality
Contrast
Color Mode
AF Control (Still)
12.0 MP (4:3)
Standard
Normal
Natural Color
Continuous AF
share
OK
W
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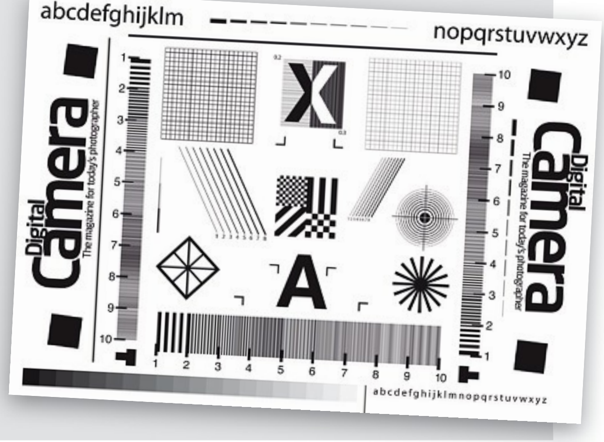
The Kodak EasyShare offers the expected capabilities of a good bridge camera.

» HOW WE TESTED / The procedure that was used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As well as using them casually, we set the cameras in this group test a series of specific, measurable challenges. In order to reflect real-world use by enthusiasts, all settings were reset to their defaults.

We tested the cameras' resolving abilities using a test card created by our sister title, *Digital Camera Magazine*, both at wide-angle and telephoto focal lengths.

We took a series of landscape shots on a tripod, and shot portraits both with and without a flash. Macro performance was tested in the time-honoured fashion by taking pictures of the fine detail on bank notes. For movies, we set up a subject in a quiet room and had him read a standard text designed to represent the range of vowel and consonant sounds in English. Speakers were set up at one side playing a recording of natural sounds to test both the cameras' ability at separating the target audio from the ambient noise, and, if they had two mics, to analyse how good they were at localising sound. Comprehensive notes were taken, but we only have room to report defining results in each case.

>> TEST THREE

Ease of use

These are complex cameras; can you use them easily?

Sadly, this seems to be an area where little innovation is taking place. All the cameras here follow the same basic formula: select a mode from a rotating dial on the top – all include a full automatic mode, aperture-priority, shutter-priority, manual, program auto, movie mode and a range of preset scenes such as Portrait and Sport – plus a slew of buttons for selecting options from the menus, adjusting exposure compensation, macro, flash and more.

If this all sounds woefully complex, then it is. And while the manuals thoroughly explain how to use each feature, they all skimp on why. Even Kodak, whose EasyShare system promises ease of use, actually makes the more advanced features such as exposure compensation more difficult to use than we'd expect.

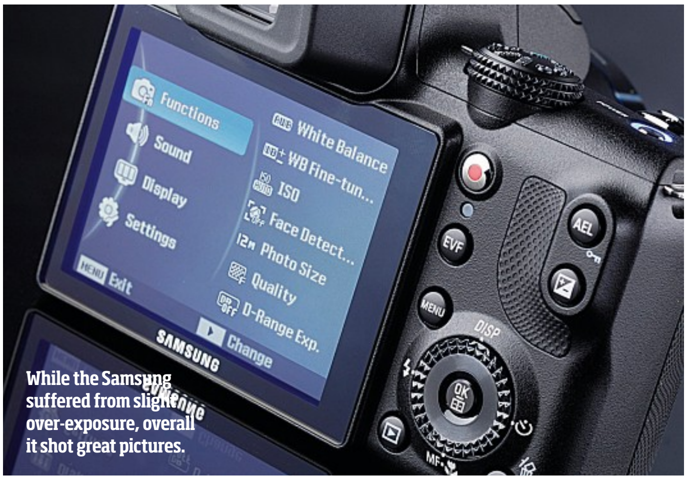
The models from Canon, Samsung and Sony at least make use of some contextual help in their menu systems.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★★☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★★☆☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★★☆☆☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★★★☆☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★☆☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★☆
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★★☆

LUMIX
FZ38
LEICA
DC VARIO-ELMARIT
18x OPTICAL ZOOM
12 MEGA PIXELS
AVCHD Lite
HD

Many of these cameras offer excellent modes, but manuals are shorn of contextual advice.



While the Samsung suffered from slight over-exposure, overall it shot great pictures.

>> TEST FOUR

Picture quality

Ultimately, picture quality should be your main concern

With one exception, all the cameras here shot at least 'good' pictures; some excelled in certain areas.

The exception, however, was Kodak, which produced pictures with boosted, acidic colours that all required *Photoshop* work to balance. Also, the lens was susceptible to dreadful chromatic aberration, especially at long focal lengths, with purple fringing covering finer details in cases.

The Canon PowerShot SX20 IS produced pictures that were pleasing overall, but susceptible to fringing, and also displayed smeary detail at 100%. In common with the models from Kodak and Olympus, there was noticeable barrelling at short focal ranges.

While the Panasonic's details were a little soft, and the Samsung model has a tendency to over-expose just a little, both produced good pictures. But top spot goes to Sony. Its photos were consistently excellent and it made the best job of analysing scenes automatically.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★☆☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★★★☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★½☆☆☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★★½☆☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★★☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★½
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★★★

>> WHY NOT BUY AN SLR? / Is the extra cost worth the bulk?

What's the difference between the cameras in this group test and so-called SLRs, the kind that professionals favour?

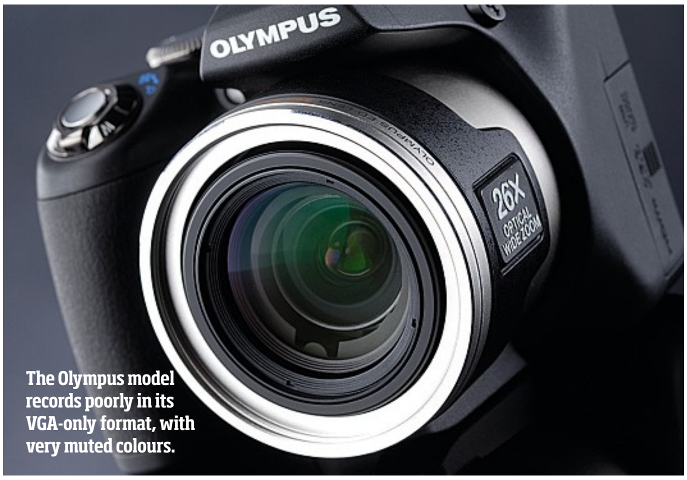
Technically, to be called an SLR a camera has to have a mirror, angled at 45 degrees when at rest, between the lens and the image sensor, much like the way a periscope works. When people say 'SLR' though, they often just mean a big, professional camera, and that's usually defined by three things: interchangeable lenses, a large image sensor – much less susceptible to noise and so much better in low light – and the ability to record in RAW.

For the same price as the cameras in this group test, you could buy a very low-end SLR; perfectly good older models such as the Canon EOS 400D are still available. Such cameras offer a larger APS-C sensor as well as the ability to swap lenses. The one thing you won't get without doubling your budget is the same zoom capability.

Don't be put off; an SLR could be a better investment for the future than a bridge camera, and it's little more sophisticated.

Canon
EOS
1000D

There's a technical difference between an SLR and most other camera types.



The Olympus model records poorly in its VGA-only format, with very muted colours.

>> TEST FIVE

Movie quality

Not only are they cameras, they're movie machines too

Even if you don't buy a camera like this particularly to capture movie footage, you'd be a fool not to consider its video abilities when making a purchasing decision.

Least impressive here are the models from Fujifilm and Olympus. Not only are both capable of just VGA movies, but the quality is dreadful. You can hear the lens grinding away in the Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR, and, like the Olympus SP-590UZ, colours are muted, detail is soft, and audio is both quiet and sounds boxed-in.

The Samsung performed best all round, though it was sometimes a little jittery in exposure and focus. Any ambient noise was well suppressed, though the stereo separation was poor. Meanwhile, the Panasonic was good, and its adoption of the AVCHD Lite codec meant footage could be imported into later versions of *iMovie*. Surprisingly, the Sony recorded in widescreen 1920x1080, but it had a slow focus and muted colours.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★☆☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★☆☆☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★★★☆☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★☆☆☆☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★½☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★☆
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★★☆

>> TEST SIX

Value for money

Will spending a few extra quid get you that much more?

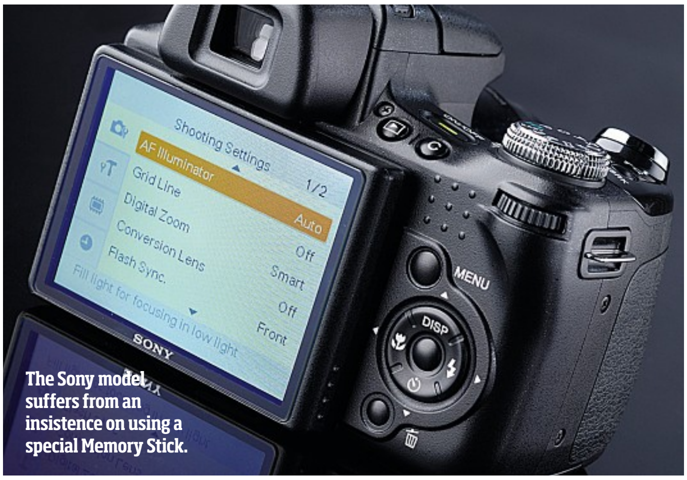
Though small sensors tend to produce poorer images than the APS-C or full-frame sensors of SLRs, they do allow for a monstrous telephoto; you could easily spend more than these entire cameras cost just on a lens to get the same zoom with a low-end SLR. If what you want is to get up close to nature without disturbing it, the roughly 600mm-or-so equivalent lenses on most of these cameras mean that they're all terrific value.

Though performing well elsewhere, the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1 scores poorly here, not just because it's a lot more expensive than better-specced cameras, but because Sony's insistence on Memory Stick means you'd get, say, a 2GB stick for the same price as a 4GB SD card.

Here Samsung's WB5000 again shines. Its photos and movies look terrific and it has a great list of features, yet it's only beaten to the title of cheapest camera by its being £1 more than the Olympus.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	★★★☆☆
Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	★★★☆☆
Kodak EasyShare Z980	★★★★☆
Olympus SP-590UZ	★★★★☆
Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	★★★★☆
Samsung WB5000	★★★★★
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1	★★★☆☆



The Sony model suffers from an insistence on using a special Memory Stick.

>> THE WINNER / Samsung WB5000

It's rare these days to come across a product that's actually bad, but we have one in this group test. Please, please don't buy the Kodak EasyShare Z980; it feels nasty in the hand and produces pictures with gaudy unnatural colours, and pink-cheeked portraits make subjects look like they've literally been caught in the act.

The other product to avoid is Fujifilm's FinePix S200EXR. It's not just its size – we were disappointed with the quality of pictures and movies. At the other end of the scale, however, are the models from Sony and Samsung. Sony's Cyber-shot DSC-HX1 consistently produced the best pictures on test, but it's almost £80 more expensive than the Samsung, which was only slightly less impressive.

Overall though, The Samsung WB5000 takes the gong. It's not just compact and feels beautifully built, but it takes cracking shots and is a joy to use, partly because of Samsung's helpful menu system. What's more, it can shoot in RAW as well as JPEG, offering more flexibility and the potential for higher quality in post-processing.

SAMSUNG
WB5000
Schneider-KREUZNACH
DUAL IMAGE STABILIZATION
Mac FORMAT Winner!

BRIDGE CAMERAS / At a glance

Canon PowerShot SX20 IS

★★★½☆

Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR

★★☆☆☆

Kodak EasyShare Z980

★★☆☆☆

Olympus SP-590UZ

★★★☆☆

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38

★★★★☆

Samsung WB5000

Mac FORMAT Winner!

★★★★★

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS

	Canon PowerShot SX20 IS	Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR	Kodak EasyShare Z980	Olympus SP-590UZ	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ38	Samsung WB5000	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1
Price	£296	£298	£267	£259	£265	£260	£339
Resolution	12.1 megapixel	12 megapixel	12 megapixel	12 megapixel	12.1 megapixel	12.5 megapixel	9.1 megapixel
Focal length	5-100mm	7.1-101.5mm	Not known	4.6-119.6mm	8-86.4mm	4.6-110.4mm	5-100mm
Focal length (35mm equivalent)	28-560mm	30.5-436mm	26-624mm	26-676mm	27-486mm	26-624mm	28-560mm
Aperture	f/2.8-f/5.7	f/2.8-5.3	f/2.8-5	f/2.8-5	f/2.8-4.4	f/2.8-5	f/2.8-8
Optical zoom	20x	14.3x	24x	26x	18x	24x	20x
ISO	Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400, 12800	Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600; 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Auto, High Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600; 1600-6400	Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Auto, 125, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200
Best continuous shooting performance*	1fps until card is full	5fps	5fps, up to 9 frames	10fps, up to 25 frames	10fps until card is full	11fps, up to 20	10fps, up to 10 frames
Stills formats	JPEG	JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW	JPEG, RAW	JPEG	JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW	JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW	JPEG
Movies formats	H.264, up to 1280x720, 30fps	AVI (Motion JPEG), up to 640 x 480 pixels, 30fps	H.264, up to 1280x720, 30fps	AVI (Motion JPEG), up to 640x480 pixels, 30fps	AVCHD Lite/Motion JPEG, up to 1280x720, 30fps	H.264 up to 1280x720, 30fps	H.264, up to 1280x720, 30fps
Included storage	0MB	47MB (internal)	47.5MB (internal)	22MB (internal)	40MB (internal)	20MB (internal)	11MB (internal)
Memory card format	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	xD, microSD	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	Memory Stick PRO Duo
Battery life (number of shots)	340	370	400	340	470	180	390
Dimensions	124x88.3x86.9mm	133.4x93.6x145mm	90.5x123.7x105mm	110.1x89.7x91mm	117.6x75.8x88.9mm	116.1x82.8x91.1mm	114.5x82.8x91.8mm
Weight (with batteries)	660g	880g	529g	445g	422g	425g	499g
Website	www.canon.co.uk	http://fujifilm.co.uk	www.kodak.com	www.olympus.co.uk	www.panasonic.co.uk	www.samsung.com/uk	www.sony.co.uk

***Figures quoted are usually at reduced resolution; full-resolution burst rates are lower**

*Valid from 25th February till the 30th March 2010
or till stock is finished. Prices excl. VAT (1 € =0,8726 £)

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A3 size (21x29,7 cm closed)
two-sided colour print Fedrigoni
170 gr matt coated paper

20,000 invitations

149.74* £

10x15 cm size
two-sided colour print Fedrigoni
300 gr matt coated paper

Concessionaria
Live motors

10,000 leaflets

302.27* £

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Harlech MUG
South Snowdonia
ian@climb8.com

[16] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[17] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[18] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[19] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[22] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[23] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[24] Oban MUG
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

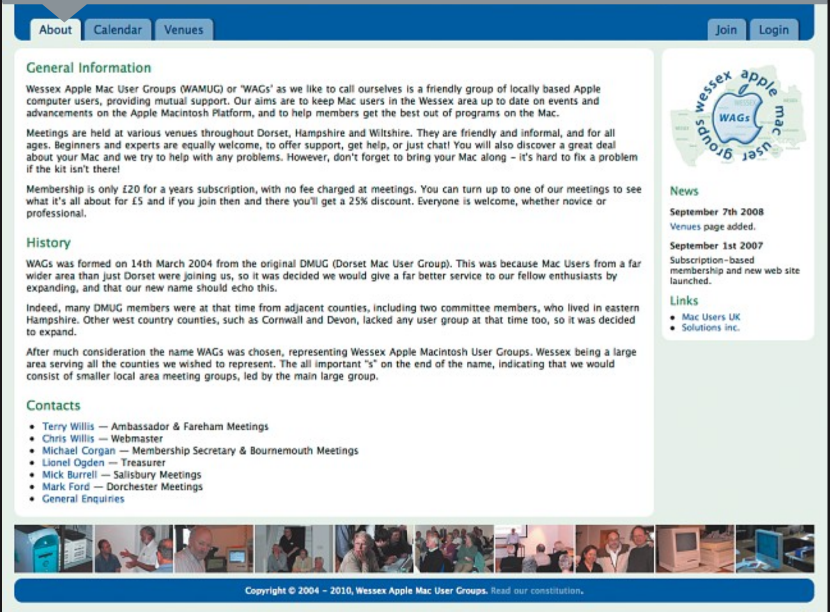
[25] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[26] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[27] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[28] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

MUG OF THE MONTH / WAMUG



General Information

Wessex Apple Mac User Groups (WAMUG) or 'WAGs' as we like to call ourselves is a friendly group of locally based Apple computer users, providing mutual support. Our aims are to keep Mac users in the Wessex area up to date on events and advancements on the Apple Macintosh Platform, and to help members get the best out of programs on the Mac.

Meetings are held at various venues throughout Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. They are friendly and informal, and for all ages. Beginners and experts are equally welcome, to offer support, get help, or just chat! You will also discover a great deal about your Mac and we try to help with any problems. However, don't forget to bring your Mac along – it's hard to fix a problem if the kit isn't there!

Membership is only £20 for a years subscription, with no fee charged at meetings. You can turn up to one of our meetings to see what it's all about for £5 and if you join then and there you'll get a 25% discount. Everyone is welcome, whether novice or professional.

History

WAGs was formed on 14th March 2004 from the original DMUG (Dorset Mac User Group). This was because Mac Users from a far wider area than just Dorset were joining us, so it was decided we would give a far better service to our fellow enthusiasts by expanding, and that our new name should echo this.

Indeed, many DMUG members were at that time from adjacent counties, including two committee members, who lived in eastern Hampshire. Other west country counties, such as Cornwall and Devon, lacked any user group at that time too, so it was decided to expand.

After much consideration the name WAGs was chosen, representing Wessex Apple Macintosh User Groups. Wessex being a large area serving all the counties we wished to represent. The all important "s" on the end of the name, indicating that we would consist of smaller local area meeting groups, led by the main large group.

Contacts

- Terry Willis — Ambassador & Fareham Meetings
- Chris Willis — Webmaster
- Michael Corgan — Membership Secretary & Bournemouth Meetings
- Lionel Ogden — Treasurer
- Mick Burrell — Salisbury Meetings
- Mark Ford — Dorchester Meetings
- General Enquiries

News

September 7th 2008
Venues page added.

September 1st 2007
Subscription-based membership and new web site launched.

Links

- Mac Users UK
- Solutions inc.

Copyright © 2004 – 2010, Wessex Apple Mac User Groups. Read our constitution.

Wessex Apple Mac User Groups (WAMUG) has been serving the Mac community in the wide-ranging Wessex area since 2004. As befits its county-based approach, meetings are held in several venues in Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. All meetings are friendly and informal, and include refreshments. They normally start with the presentation of some software, and lead on to general questions. Membership is £20 a year, but you can also turn up at a meeting for a one-off £5 fee. Everyone is welcome - both novice and professional. See **www.wamug.org.uk** for more details. ●

[29] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[30] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[31] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[32] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[33] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[34] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[35] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[37] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[38] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
ymug@mactalk.info
www.ymug.org

NEW STARTER

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If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

> “The MacBook Pro range has grown and is now even more affordable”
>
> **»MACBOOK PRO P119**

HOW TO BUY

HOW TO BUY

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TOP GEAR

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Buyers’ Guide

- DESKTOPS
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- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
Editor

The new Apple iPad throws up an interesting question if you were thinking of buying a new MacBook or MacBook Pro. Should you still go down the traditional laptop route, or could the iPad be exactly what you’re looking for?

It’s important to remember that the iPad is not really designed to be used as a standalone computer. It’s designed to dock with your Mac and use *iTunes* to back up and transfer music, videos and photos. However, if you’ve already got a Mac that’s your main machine – such as a Mac Pro or an iMac – and all you want is a device for lightweight web browsing and email from the sofa, then the iPad could be exactly what you need. It can’t run traditional Mac applications, but there’s already an App Store containing more than 130,000 apps and games that it can run, right now, so it’s not short of software. And there’s a keyboard docking station you can buy. Tempting, isn’t it?

»BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full reviews, see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac mini is now available in a server edition, with no optical drive, but two 500GB hard drives. The server edition comes with Snow Leopard Server preinstalled.

Back in October 2009, Apple updated its iMac range, as well as beefing up the specs of its Mac minis and revising its one and only MacBook. All iMacs now come supplied with the new Apple Magic Mouse, which incorporates a Multi-Touch surface for 360-degree scrolling, two-fingered swiping and screen zoom.

All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips as a minimum, so whichever Mac you choose, it's going to be powerful. Whether you need a notebook or a desktop Mac depends on how you're going to use it. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages.

> *"All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips as a minimum, so whichever Mac you choose, it's going to be powerful"*

Apple offers three Mac models for desktop users. The new iMacs boast screen sizes of up to 27 inches.

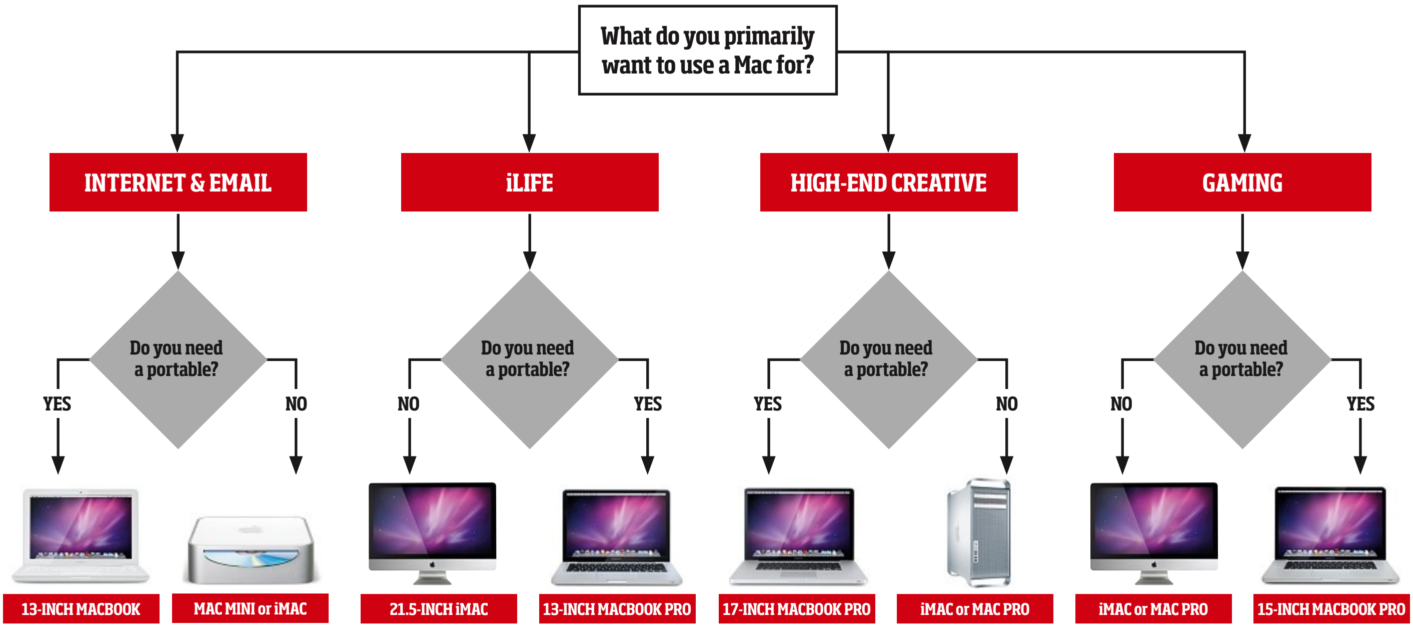
Apple's notebook range

Notebook choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The brand-new white MacBook is just £816, and offers a 2.26GHz processor, a 250GB hard drive and a 13-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen display. Although it's Apple's entry-level notebook, it's still a powerful and capable machine that's ideal for students and first-time users.

The MacBook Pro family had been extended, and is now more affordable than ever. It's ideal for more processor-hungry work such as video editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. Starting us off are the 13-inch models with 2.26 or 2.53GHz processors and up to 4GB RAM. There are now three 15-inch versions to choose from: 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz. From £1,328, these mid-level MacBook Pros offer more screen space than the 13-inch versions and better graphics. They also have built-in SD card slots to import digital photos.

Finally we have the daddy of the family, the 2.8GHz 17-inch version with a 500GB hard drive and up to eight hours of wireless productivity. Elsewhere, the thin and light 13-inch MacBook Air has seen a speed boost and price drop. It lacks a built-in DVD drive and only has one USB 2.0 port, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £65.

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

If you want a desktop Mac, you have the choice of a Mac mini, an iMac or a Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. The October 2009 revision improved the machine's specs without increasing the price. For £510, you now get a 2.26GHz machine with 2GB RAM and 160GB hard drive. The high-end model offers a 2.53GHz processor with 4GB RAM and a 320GB hard drive for £663. You need a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

Re-imagined iMacs

The October 2009 revision to the iMac range gave us four new machines, with prices starting at £969. The two cheaper iMacs boast a 21.5-inch display, while the two high-end models include a 27-inch screen. Interestingly, three of the four iMacs have 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors, which can be increased to 3.33GHz if you customise your iMac at the online Apple Store. The top-of-the-range model is based on a 2.66GHz quad core Intel Core i5, with a 2.8GHz quad core Intel Core i7 available as a configuration option.

These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro for power, although for really intensive work you need Apple's high-end Mac. With a minimum spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous online store configuration options, you can be sure the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,940, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend a fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,199 or the 24-inch LED display at £649. All current Macs come with Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite preinstalled. ●

> *"There's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro, and with numerous online store configuration options, you can be sure the Mac you order is built to your requirements"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

All of Apple's notebooks now include an internal battery that lasts at least seven hours on a single charge, and is good for up to 1,000 charges.

Many features associated with the MacBook Pro range have trickled down to the MacBook.

Your choice of Apple gear

Let us help you make the right purchase

iMac

Updated October 2009

21.5-inch 3.06GHz
£969

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1x SD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 3.06GHz
£1,225

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1x SD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.06GHz
£1,378

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1x SD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.66GHz (Quad Core) £1,634

- 2.66GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4850 graphics, 512MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1x SD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

Mac mini

Updated October 2009

>>DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The high-end Mac mini now offers a 2.53GHz processor, 4GB of RAM and a 320GB hard drive.

2.26GHz 160GB
£510

- 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 160GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

2.53GHz 320GB
£663

- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac Pro

Quad-Core

£1,940

• 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core

£2,553

• 2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

Updated
March
2009

13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,174

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz

£1,378

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

MacBook Air

13-inch white 2.26GHz

£816

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR2SDRAM) • 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

MacBook

13-inch 2.26GHz

£918

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 160GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.53GHz

£1,174

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz

£1,328

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz

£1,531

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.8GHz

£1,736

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card

17-inch 2.8GHz

£1,889

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated
October
2009

MacBook Pro

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
9:42 AM
Akon
Beautiful
Freedom
3:40
2 of 14
-1:32
MENU

> *"VoiceOver makes its way to the nano, so you can navigate through your artists, and songs without looking at the screen"*

How to buy an iPod

There's an iPod for everyone, and we're here to help you find your ideal model

At the end of the month, Apple's mobile entertainment range will be joined by the iPad. Check out our feature starting on page 24 for details on this exciting product. At the time of writing, no UK pricing information had been released, but we'll have all this and more in time for next month's review.

The iPod range received its last update in September 2009. The nano enjoyed the biggest revision, with a new camera that captures audio and video, but can't take photographs. It also offers a larger screen at 2.2 inches corner to corner, an FM radio with Live Pause functionality and a pedometer.

The shuffle's VoiceOver feature makes its way to the nano too, so you can navigate through your artists, songs and playlists without looking at the screen. The 16GB nano has dropped in price to £138, with the 8GB model costing £118, making the higher-capacity nano a much more attractive option.

The iPod shuffle has had a minor update and now comes in five colours and two capacities, a 2GB model for £46 and a 4GB version for £60. Again, the higher-capacity model is better value. There's also a special edition iPod shuffle stainless steel 4GB model available exclusively from Apple stores (including online) for £77.

The latest iPod touch

The iPod touch also got an upgrade in September 2009. The 16GB model is dropped and a new 64GB version added at £306. The 32GB model now costs £234, and the 8GB version is down to £152. The new 32GB and 64GB iPod touch models feature improved performance and support for OpenGL ES Version 2.0 graphics, which is great news for gamers. Now your games can offer more realistic textures and even greater detail.

And finally, don't forget the classic. At £193 for 160GB, it still offers the best cost-per-GB ratio of any iPod. ●

Updated September 2009

iPod classic

iPod classic 160GB

£193

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod nano 8GB

£118

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£138

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

Updated September 2009

iPod nano

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2009

iPod shuffle 2GB

£46

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 4GB

£60

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPhone

Updated June 2009

9:42 AM
8 of 38
Cancel
Trim
Voice Control
call
play
shuffle
Cancel
315° NW

iPhone 3G 8GB

£349

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x1=2.3mm
- 133g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 3GS 16GB

£449

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm
- 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 3GS 32GB

£549

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm
- 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPod touch

Updated September 2009

iPod touch 8GB

£152

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB

£234

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 64GB

£306

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

» iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone – it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it "the best iPod Apple has ever made". But at 8GB the iPhone 3G is not capacious, which is annoying as the 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. The latest iPhone 3GS comes in a 32GB size, which is more like the kind of capacity you need for movies, but there are some key differences between the iPod touch and iPhone.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that the iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone costs a lot more, and you also have to pay for the data you use. You either have to take out a contract or buy it on Pay & Go from £349. Previously on O2 only, it's now possible to use an iPhone with other providers.

The iPod touch currently lacks many of the iPhone's features, including a camera, voice control and digital compass. Rumours that a camera would be included in the iPod touch were not confirmed in the last update, but it may happen in the future.

NEW TO OS X 10.6 SNOW LEOPARD? Then you need this...

HE COMPLETE GUIDE TO USING YOUR MAC!
Mac FORMAT presents
The Essential
Snow Leopard
Handbook
Mac OS X 10.6
100 PAGES OF INDEPENDENT, JARGON-FREE ADVICE!
Finder
Email
System
Safari
Backup
FREE DISC

This complete guide to the latest version of OS X gives you everything you need to get more from Apple's latest operating system, which ships on all new Macs. If you've never used a Mac before, or you're upgrading from an older version of OS X, then this is the mag for you!

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £56 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
⊕ Gesture support, good software bundle
⊖ Expensive

Macally mGlide ★★★★☆

Price: £28 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619206
Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor
⊕ Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
⊖ It's a little small

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★

Price: £187 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

⊕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
⊖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
⊕ Packed with features; great text printing
⊖ Average photo printing; expensive

Lexmark E260dn ★★★★☆

Price: £218 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/268952
Key specs: Mono laser printer
⊕ Cheap to run, easy setup and great text quality
⊖ Simple feature set

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £649 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x 1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

⊕ Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
⊖ Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
⊕ Excellent value for money
⊖ No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★☆

Price: £129 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/500421
Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res
⊕ A solid performer; good looking
⊖ Terrible built-in audio

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Sennheiser CX 300-II

★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Web: www.sennheiser.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/562193
Key specs: Frequency response 19Hz-21KHz; Impedance 16Ω; Weight 4g; Extras: three sets of cups and carry pouch

⊕ Superb value; great audio at a bargain price
⊖ Slightly flabby bass; there are better buds around, but not at this price

"We can't say it loudly or plainly enough: buy a set of Sennheiser CX 300-II. Accomplished sound, and cheap."

Revo Blok ★★★★½

Price: £175 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/593649
Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods
⊕ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
⊖ Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

Altec Octiv AIR M812 ★★★★☆

Price: £262 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/638130
Key specs: Wireless; iPod dock; FM tuner; Aux
⊕ Polished, rounded sound; very stylish
⊖ Could play nicer with an iPhone

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D

★★★★☆

Price: £570 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; Card formats: SD, SDHC; File formats: JPEG, RAW.

➕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
➖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Olympus μ Tough 8000 ★★★★☆

Price: £255 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603073
Key specs: 12MP; 5-18.2mm lens
➕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
➖ Controls are awkward to use

Samsung ST1000 ★★★★½

Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Full review: www.techradar.com/644939
Key specs: OS X 10.4 or later
➕ Good pics and movies; great GPS
➖ Too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

➕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
➖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1000 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
➕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
➖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £164 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
➕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
➖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270

★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/621127
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

➕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
➖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £97 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
➕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
➖ Can't set up playlists

Billion BiPAC P104 ★★★★☆

Price: £77 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/560834
Key specs: Transfer rate up to 200Mbps
➕ Great alternative to WiFi
➖ Bulky, though this is inevitable

STORAGE

My Book Studio II 4TB

★★★★½

Price: £410 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.wdc.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/618319
Key specs: 4TB; USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 and eSATA connectivity; can be reconfigured to different RAID settings

➕ Four terabytes; triple interface
➖ Not exactly cheap; chassis is a little flimsy

"Impressive performance and connection for those who need extra space. Pleasantly styled and easy on the eye."

Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £613 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/604216
Key specs: 2TB capacity; 2x Gigabit Ethernet
➕ Fast read/write performance; huge storage space
➖ Expensive even for capacity; flimsy door

Apple Time Capsule 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £388 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/629850
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
➕ Simultaneous dual band; high capacity
➖ No built-in modem

Orange
12:51
MacFormat - This Week [Enhanc...
This Week for January 25, 2010
Chapter 1 of 4
All your Apple needs
Mac
FORMAT
This Week

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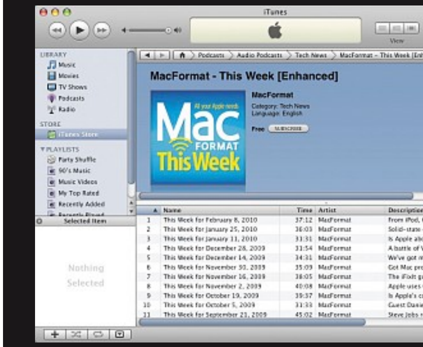

MacFormat - This Week [Enhanced]

MacFormat
Category: Tech News
Language: English
Free

	Name	Time	Artist
1	This Week for February 8, 2010	37:12	MacFormat
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4	This Week for December 28, 2009	33:54	MacFormat
5	This Week for December 14, 2009	34:31	MacFormat
6	This Week for November 30, 2009	35:09	MacFormat
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8	This Week for November 2, 2009	40:08	MacFormat
9	This Week for October 19, 2009	39:37	MacFormat
10	This Week for October 5, 2009	33:33	MacFormat
11	This Week for September 21, 2009	45:02	MacFormat

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iPOD ACCESSORIES

Belkin TuneBase FM

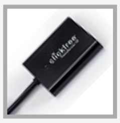
★★★★★

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Web: www.belkin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/628966
Key specs: A very cheap way of integrating your iPhone into your in-car music system

+ ClearScan; RDS; can charge other USB device; great build quality
− FM signal can be crackly, and sometimes drops out altogether

"As a cheap way of tying your iPhone into your car's system, it can't be beat."

Clickfree Transformer SE ★★★★★



Price: £37 **Reviewed:** Issue 217
Full review: www.techradar.com/612086
Key specs: Use any USB hard drive for backups
+ Back up your iPod or iPhone's music, and more
− Interface needs a little polish

Joby GorillaMobile Holder ★★★★★

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 217
Full review: www.techradar.com/658979
Key specs: Supports iPod 3G and 3GS
+ Flexible, strong, versatile, fun and functional
− No spirit level

MAC ACCESSORIES

Shure PG27 USB Mic

★★★★☆

Price: £167 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.shure.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/611534
Key specs: Frequency response: 20Hz-20kHz; Pattern: cardioid polar; Attenuation; 0db /-20db

+ Great range of sound; easy to set up; on-mic monitoring capability
− Single microphone use only

"Shure's PG27 mic represents the new breed of USB-based active mics. If you're after a single-mic setup, it's great."

Y-Cam Knight SD ★★★★★

Price: £175 **Reviewed:** Issue 218
Full review: www.techradar.com/667529
Key specs: 640x280 resolution; Ethernet and WiFi
+ Excellent night vision; perfect for home security
− The sensor is a little low-res

APC BackUPS BE700G ★★★★½

Price: £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 218
Full review: www.techradar.com/667530
Key specs: Runs up to 3.9 minutes at full load
+ UPS and surge protected; uses three-pin sockets
− Not great looking

iPHONE APPLICATIONS

Twitterrific Premium

★★★★½

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.iconfactory.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.2 or later
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

+ Lovely interface; beefed-up features list; support for multiple accounts
− Reposting between accounts is tricky; basic stuff needs configuring

"An application that definitely repays the time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."

Pastebot ★★★★★

Price: £1.79 **Reviewed:** Issue 218
System reqs: iPhone OS 3.0

+ Excellent clipboard manager with Mac syncing
− No real drawbacks at all

RedLaser ★★★★★

Price: £1.19 **Reviewed:** Issue 216
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

+ Read a barcode and then check online prices
− Results weaker on iPhone 3GS than original

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Micromat TechTool Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £98 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.micromat.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/528167
System reqs: PPC G4 or G5 or any Intel Mac; OS X 10.4.9 or later; DVD ROM drive; Quartz Extreme graphics support

+ Fast and stable; comprehensive tools; proactive alerts and monitors
− Updated FTP disappoints

"If your budget can only accommodate one commercial system utility, make it TechTool Pro 5."

Prosoft Drive Genius 2 ★★★★½

Price: £79 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589923
System reqs: G4, G5 or Intel; OS X 10.4.9 or later
+ Comprehensive set of tools
− RAID not supported

iStat Menus 2.0 ★★★★★

Price: Free **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Full review: www.techradar.com/645026
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later
+ Flexible, stable and useful; great date and time
− Gradient-happy interface

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Bento 3 ★★★★☆

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Full review: www.techradar.com/644983
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
⊕ iPhoto integration; password security
⊖ Layout tools still a little inflexible

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Photoshop Elements 8

★★★★½

Price: £75 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.adobe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/644205
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.11 or higher; 1GB hard drive space; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

⊕ Great Recompose tool, smart brush for special effects, Scene Cleaner
⊖ Intel-only, interface a little gloomy

"Lots of exciting tools, offering virtually all the controls you need at a truly affordable price."

BeLight Printfolio ★★★★½

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589659
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Comprehensive range of user-friendly apps
⊖ Not great at exporting between them

Dream Capture ★★★★☆

Price: £7 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611327
System reqs: G5 Mac; 3.5MB disk space
⊕ Instantly saved videos; good value for money
⊖ Some file sizes very large

GAMES

X3: Terran Conflict

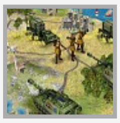
★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 216
Web: www.egosoft.com
System reqs: Intel processor, 2.16GHz or greater; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7; GeForce 8600, Radeon X1600 or later; 256MB VRAM; 7GB hard drive space

⊕ Amazing looks; astonishing depth; new ships and control system
⊖ Hard to get into; a little po-faced

"If you don't mind the seriousness and complexity, there's no better way to fulfil your galaxy-hopping fantasies."

Civ IV: Beyond the Sword ★★★★★



Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: G5/Intel 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM
⊕ Loads of scenarios; new civilisations; Great VFM
⊖ Won't win over non-fans of previous games

BioShock ★★★★★

Price: £34 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: 1.8GHz CPU; 1.5GB RAM; 8GB HDD space
⊕ Great story; amazing visuals; interesting themes
⊖ Too quick to reveal its secrets

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £71 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space

⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS

"The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £408 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★☆

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611940
System reqs: G4+; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4
⊕ Excellent features and tutorials
⊖ No texture mapping or lighting

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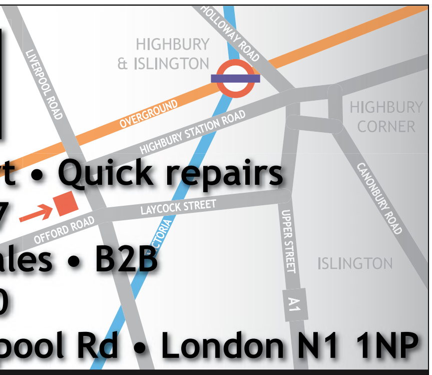

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On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc

Issue 219

Perfection is defined as a state of being that's free from all possible flaws and defects. While Apple's Snow Leopard is good, it's safe to say that it hasn't quite reached a level that can be defined as perfection. There are certainly improvements that can be made through third-party hacks or simple applications. So it's convenient that hordes of developers spend their every waking hour creating useful enhancements for OS X that make all our lives easier.

Take the freeware app *Scribblet*, for example, a very basic piece of note-taking software that can be opened swiftly using a keyboard shortcut, and into which you can type notes and easily search to retrieve ideas in the future.

> *"Hordes of developers spend their every waking hour creating useful enhancements for OS X"*

That's not all. If you find the standard OS X file archiver a little restrictive when it comes to supported file types, then you'll want to try *keka*, which can extract RAR, 7z, ACE, ISO files and more.

We could go on, but you can check out this month's *MacFormat* disc yourself to find these great apps – and many more like them – to further enhance your Snow Leopard experience.

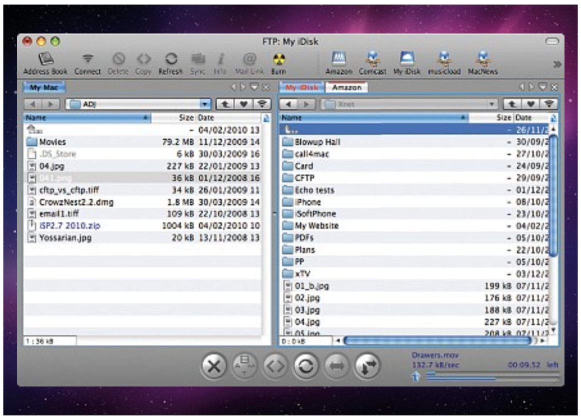
Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.

>> FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL CLIENT

Captain FTP 6.2

Access and update remote files from a tidy interface

File transfer protocol has been around since the dawn of the internet and is widely used by people looking to transfer data between locations with ease. The folk at Xnet Communications have adopted Apple's philosophy of making innovative products with ease of use as a fundamental design principle, and it shows in this full product. See for yourself by installing the software and following the registration instructions on the disc. ●



Captain FTP features an intuitive interface to simplify the transfer process.

>> ALBUM ARTWORK UTILITY

Curator 1.3

Add album artwork to iTunes

Do you enjoy the subtleties of minimal electronic tunes, as the author of these pages does, or some other equally obscure musical genre? Then you'll no doubt have difficulty when it comes to artwork in *iTunes*. It can lead to a very dreary grey box being displayed during playback on an iPhone, which nobody likes. So be sure to install this full product that enables you to micro-manage artwork in your library on an album-by-album basis. You can download specific artwork easily, while indicators make it instantly recognisable as to which albums have missing art. ●

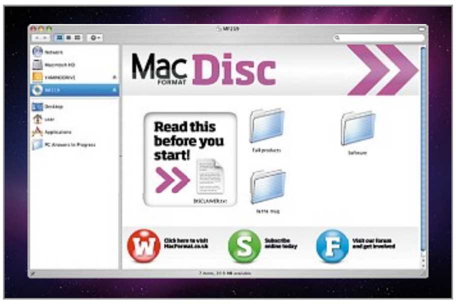
>> MUG ENHANCER

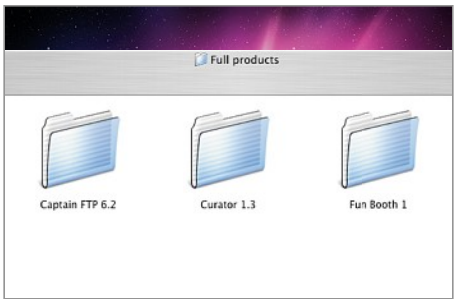
Fun Booth 1

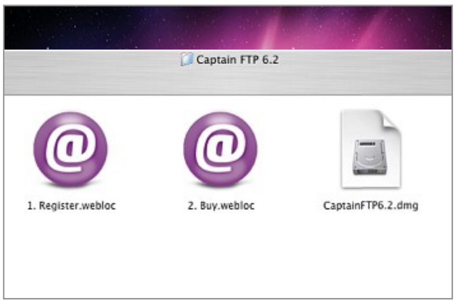
Joke around with a web cam

It's not all seriousness in *MacFormat* towers – there are rare occasions where we too like to indulge in some boisterous frivolities. One such time was when we discovered this hilarious application that lets you snap funny, scary and downright silly photos of yourself. It houses face-tracking algorithms that make digitally adding props to your fine mug a cinch. You'll also be able to share your creations with friends and family on the internet by taking advantage of the software's tight integration with *Mail*, *iPhoto* and Flickr. So, what are you waiting for? ●

HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc







01 Loading the disc

Once you've inserted the disc in your Mac's optical drive and clicked on the disc icon to display its contents you'll be greeted with this folder. Please make sure you read the disclaimer text file before you progress.

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the software itself. Drag it to your desktop to open.

Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

FULL PRODUCTS

Captain FTP 6.2
Curator 1.3
Fun Booth 1

IN THE MAG

40 ways to improve your Mac (free software)

Adium 1.3.10
ClickToFlash 1.6b6
Dropbox 0.7.97
Flip4Mac WMV Player 2.3.1.2
iStat menus 2.0
Perian 1.2
Plex 0.8.5
Skype 2.8.0.722
Spark 3.0b9
Spotify 0.3.22

40 ways to improve your Mac (trial software)

1Password 3.0.2
Cocktail 4.7
Default Folder X 4.3.5
Fresh 1.2.2
Hazel 2.3.5
LaunchBar 5.0.2
Mail Act-On 2.1.5
PhoneView 2.3.2
Scrivener 1.53
Socialite 1.0.2
SugarSync Manager 1.7.7
SuperDuper! 2.6.2
TextExpander 2.8.1
Web Snapper 2.3.9

Reviews

AppDelete 3.0.1
AppZapper 2.0.1
Color Schemer Studio 2.0.1
ScreenFlow 2.0.2
Tidy Up! 2.1.4
VirusBarrier X6 10.6.4
Yojimbo 2.1

Shareware

Airlock 1.0.1
myTexts snow 1.6
Ommwriter 1.0b2
Scrivener 1.53
TapDex 4.0
WriteRoom 2.3.7

Tutorials

FileZilla 3.3.1
Growl 1.2
GrowlMail 1.2.1
Herald 1.2
MacUpdate Desktop 5.0.3
Mail.appetizer 1.3b1
PhotoStyler 2.5.2

SOFTWARE

Recommended

Fun Booth 2.0
KavaTunes 4.0

Top freeware

Album Artwork Assistant 2.9
AppMenuBoy 1.0.4
Beatler 0.1.7b
Cliclick 1.3
Harmony Break 1.0
IceClean 3.4
keka 0.1.3.2
myPhotoEdit 0.9.2
Scribblet 2.0
TimeMachineEditor 2.5.3

Widgets

MailWidget 3.51
Mars Explorer Widget 2.22
SlothCam 2.95
TheDailyGrind 3.0.1

GET YOUR SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

HAVING PROBLEMS?

In the unlikely event of your disc being defective, please email our support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** for further assistance. If you would prefer to talk to a member of our support team in person, call **01225 822743**. If you have comments about the software we include or you have suggestions for software that you would like to see on future discs, please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

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On your disc

Find three full programs plus a selection of widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

Mac
FORMAT
ISSUE 219 / April 2010

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Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

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Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the MacFormat disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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